2

EYE OPENING ARC

Higurashi
WHEN THEY CRY

STORY BY
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Higurashi
WHEN THEY CRY
EYE OPENING ARC

Higurashi WHEN THEY CRY EYE OPENING ARC 2

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EVERY YEAR FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS ON THE NIGHT OF THE COTTON DRIFTING IN HINAMIZAWA VILLAGE, ENEMIES OF THE VILLAGE HAVE MET WITH MYSTERIOUS DEATHS.

AND LAST NIGHT WAS THE FOURTH YEAR.

SATOSHI-KUN'S AUNT WAS BEATEN TO DEATH.

NOW THE SOURCE OF SATOSHI-KUN'S AGONY IS GONE.

BUT I...

CHAPTER 6

CHAPTER 6: UNDERGROUND SAIGUDEN

DOES SATOSHI-KUN HAVE AN ALIBI FOR THE NIGHT OF THE FESTIVAL?

DO YOU THINK THE POLICE HAVE ANY SUSPECTS IN MIND?

I dunno... Looks like that Ooishi guy thinks it was someone close to her.

UH... YEAH. YOU'RE RIGHT...

I'M SORRY. I WASN'T THINKING...

"SATOSHI-KUN WAS AT THE FESTIVAL"!! WOULDN'T THAT HAVE BEEN GOOD ENOUGH !!?

Eh...? I don't know...

HAH?

BAN (BAM)

STUPID ONEE!!

SHE KNOWS THAT THEY COULD EASILY SUSPECT SATOSHI-KUN, AND SHE DIDN'T THINK OF ANYTHING FOR HIS ALIBI!?

ビクッ

BIKU (WINCE)

This isn't about whether or not Satoshi-kun killed her!! What's important is whether he has an alibi!

SO...SO THEN...

I'LL TELL THEM THAT SATOSHI WAS WITH ME AT THE FESTI-VAL.

OH, I THINK THE POLICE ARE COMING HERE LATER.

DID SATOSHI REALLY...?

HONESTLY! I'M THE ONE WHO WANTS TO BE DEPRESSED HERE!!

If you haven't already taken everything into consideration, then it's useless to try any tricks now! Please be as honest with them as you can!

SHUN (GLOOM)

しゅん...

I'M SORRY ...

ONEE?

AN OBVIOUS LIE WON'T DO ANYBODY ANY GOOD.

IF THE POLICE CATCH SATOSHI-KUN...

...THEN EVERYTHING HE'S BEEN THROUGH WILL HAVE BEEN FOR NOTHING...!

...

SATOSHI-KUN!?

SA-TOSHI-KUN!

MION ...

NIKO (SMILE)

MY AUNT DIED...WITH EVERYTHING GOING ON— THE POLICE AND THE NEIGHBOR-HOOD— IT'S A DISASTER.

NO, NOTHING GOOD...

WHAT'S UP? SOME-THING GOOD HAPPEN?

THE SMILE THAT ROSE TO SATOSHI-KUN'S FACE...

IT WAS THE KIND YOU MAKE WHEN YOU COMPLETE SOME MAJOR TASK.

...HOW I KNEW.

THAT'S...

OH.

ANYWAY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

AH.

HE'S THE ONE...

...WHO KILLED THE AUNT WHO HAD BEEN TORMENTING SATOKO.

IS THIS THE TOY YOU WANTED TO GIVE TO SATOKO?

I WON'T GET MY PAY FOR A LITTLE WHILE YET, SO I'M WORRIED THAT SOMEONE WILL BUY IT BEFORE I DO.

むう.. MUU CHRRM

IF YOU'RE SO WORRIED, YOU SHOULD JUST ASK THEM TO HOLD IT FOR YOU.

ALL RIGHT!!

LET'S GO RESERVE IT RIGHT NOW!

DA (DASH)

EH? MION?

KOKU (NOD)

KOKU

UM! EXCUSE ME!

KOKU

KOKU

EXCUSE ME!! I WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE THAT BEAR!!

PATA (PATTER)

PATA

MY, MY, A CUSTOMER? I'M SORRY.

NOW YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

NOTE: RESERVED/ PLUSH BEAR/ TOY SHOP

NO KIDDING. I SHOULD HAVE RESERVED IT SOONER.

KOTSU (CLACK)

MY GRAND-FATHER IS SO SENILE.

ZA CLOOMO

HELLO, HELLO. NN-FU-FU.

HOJO-SAN, SONOZAKI-SAN. SORRY TO RUIN THE MOOD.

KURANDO OOISHI OF THE OKINOMIYA POLICE!

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK.

WELL, IF IT ISN'T OOISHI-SAN.

THE DETECTIVE SNIFFING AROUND THE SERIES OF MYSTERIOUS DEATHS?

IS HE... THE ONE ONEE WAS TALKING ABOUT?

EH HEH

BIKU (NINCE)

HOJO-SAN.

WHAT BRINGS FOUR GROWN MEN TO A TOY STORE, I WONDER?

...THERE ARE A FEW THINGS WE'D LIKE TO ASK YOU.

NIYA (SMIRK)

AS A MATTER OF FACT ...

KATA

KATA (SHIVER)

KATA

YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO WITH THEM, SATOSHI-KUN!

WHAT IS THIS, AN INTER-ROGA-TION?

NN-FU-FU.

WE WON'T TAKE MUCH OF YOUR TIME.

PLEASE, DON'T BE SO NERVOUS.

AH...

"WON'T TAKE MUCH TIME"!? GIVE ME A BREAK!!

THAT JERK! HE'S GOING TO ARREST SATOSHI-KUN!!

OOISHI !!

!!

NOW, HOJO-SAN.

ONEE'S ALREADY TOLD THE POLICE EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED THAT DAY!

AND SHE WAS EVEN STUPIDLY HONEST ENOUGH TO SAY THAT SATOSHI-KUN DOESN'T HAVE AN ALIBI!!

KEEP IT TOGETHER, SATOSHI-KUN!!

WHAT DID YOU ENDURE ALL THAT SUFFERING FOR!!?

ZOKU (CHILL)

NN?

WAIT !!

YOU WANT TO KNOW SATOSHI-KUN'S ALIBI, RIGHT!?

I CAN'T LET THAT HAND TOUCH SATOSHI-KUN!

I CAN'T, I CAN'T!

SATOSHI-KUN WAS WITH ME ON THE NIGHT OF THE COTTON DRIFTING!!

I HAVE TO PROTECT HIM!!

BUT YOU DIDN'T SAY A WORD ABOUT HOJO-SAN BEFORE. DO YOU MEAN TO TELL ME NOW THAT HE ACTUALLY WAS WITH YOU?

OH? YOU YOURSELF ALREADY TOLD ME THAT YOU WERE AT THE SHRINE UNTIL THE END OF THE FESTIVAL THAT EVENING, AND I HAVE TESTIMONY FROM MANY OTHERS WHO SAW YOU THERE.

MION SONO-ZAKI-SAN?

AND NOW YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME THAT HE WAS WITH YOU?

I KNOW THAT YOU WERE WITH OTHER FRIENDS AT THE FESTIVAL. I EVEN SAW YOU MYSELF.

WELL...

I'M NOT MION.

I WAS WITH SATOSHI-KUN THE WHOLE TIME, TALKING AT A FAMILY RESTAURANT.

SO I WAS NEVER AT THE COT-TON DRIFT-ING.

SURU (SLIP)

IF YOU'RE NOT MION, THEN WHO ARE YOU?

HIKU (TWITCH)

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

110

PASA
CFHOOSHO

SHION SONO-ZAKI...

MION'S TWIN SISTER.

I'M NOT MAKING FUN.

THIS IS THE FIRST I'VE HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT MION HAVING A TWIN SISTER. ARE YOU TRYING TO MAKE FUN OF THE GROWN-UPS?

PLEASE, CHECK OUR FAMILY REGISTER OR ANY-THING YOU WANT.

ZAWA

ZAWA (MURMUR)

OR WILL YOU BELIEVE ME IF YOU SEE ME AND ONEE TOGETHER?

.....

...SHION... SONO-ZAKI-SAN?

YES.

...WOULD YOU MIND COMING WITH US TO THE PRECINCT?

I WOULD LOVE TO.

SATOSHI-KUN, WHAT-EVER THEY ASK YOU, JUST KEEP QUIET.

ZAWA (MURMUR)

ZAWA

EH?

BOOOO (DAAAZE)

UH...

UH!

Y-YE-AH.

UNDER-STAND? IF YOU DON'T KEEP YOUR HEAD ON NOW, YOU'LL PLAY RIGHT INTO THE POLICE'S HANDS!

SASA (WAVE)

WAH! ぱのん

PAN (CLAP)

SA-TO-SHI-KUN!

EH?

ARE YOU MAD...?

... UM ...

THAT I LIED TO YOU...

AH HA HA HA HA HA!

PFFT!

EH!?

HOW DO YOU WRITE "SHION"?

IT'S THE "SHI" THAT MEANS "POEM," AND "ON" AS IN "SOUND."

SHION.

KUSU (CHUCKLE)

KUSU

しおん

...NOW IT FINALLY MAKES SENSE.

I THOUGHT IT WAS WEIRD. SOMETIMES WHAT YOU SAID DIDN'T REALLY MATCH UP WITH MION.

IT'S A GOOD NAME.

ALL RIGHT, YOU TWO.

SORRY TO INTERRUPT, BUT MAY I ASK YOU TO COME WITH ME TO THE PRECINCT?

IT'S BETTER THIS WAY!

EVEN IF IT MEANS THE MAIN FAMILY WILL FIND ME...

...I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN HELP SATOSHI-KUN!

GACHA (KACHAK)

KIKII (SCREE)

BABA BA-BAM

SHION-SAN. YOU HAVE BEEN SUMMONED BY THE HEAD OF THE MAIN SONOZAKI FAMILY.

BURORORORO (VRRROOOOM)

HO (WHEW)

ONEE..!

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, SHION...

I THOUGHT I WOULDN'T SEE YOU UNTIL NEW YEAR'S.

ZOKU (CHILL)

COME WITH ME. EVERYONE IS WAITING.

THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY IS FURIOUS.

IT... IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME, MION-ONEESAMA. I'M DOING VERY WELL.

THIS IS...

I'VE HEARD THE RUMORS.

THEY SAY THAT DEEP IN THE SONOZAKI FOREST, THERE'S AN UNDERGROUND TORTURE CHAMBER FOR TORMENTING TO DEATH ANYONE WHO OPPOSES THE SONOZAKI FAMILY.

GASHAN (CLANK)

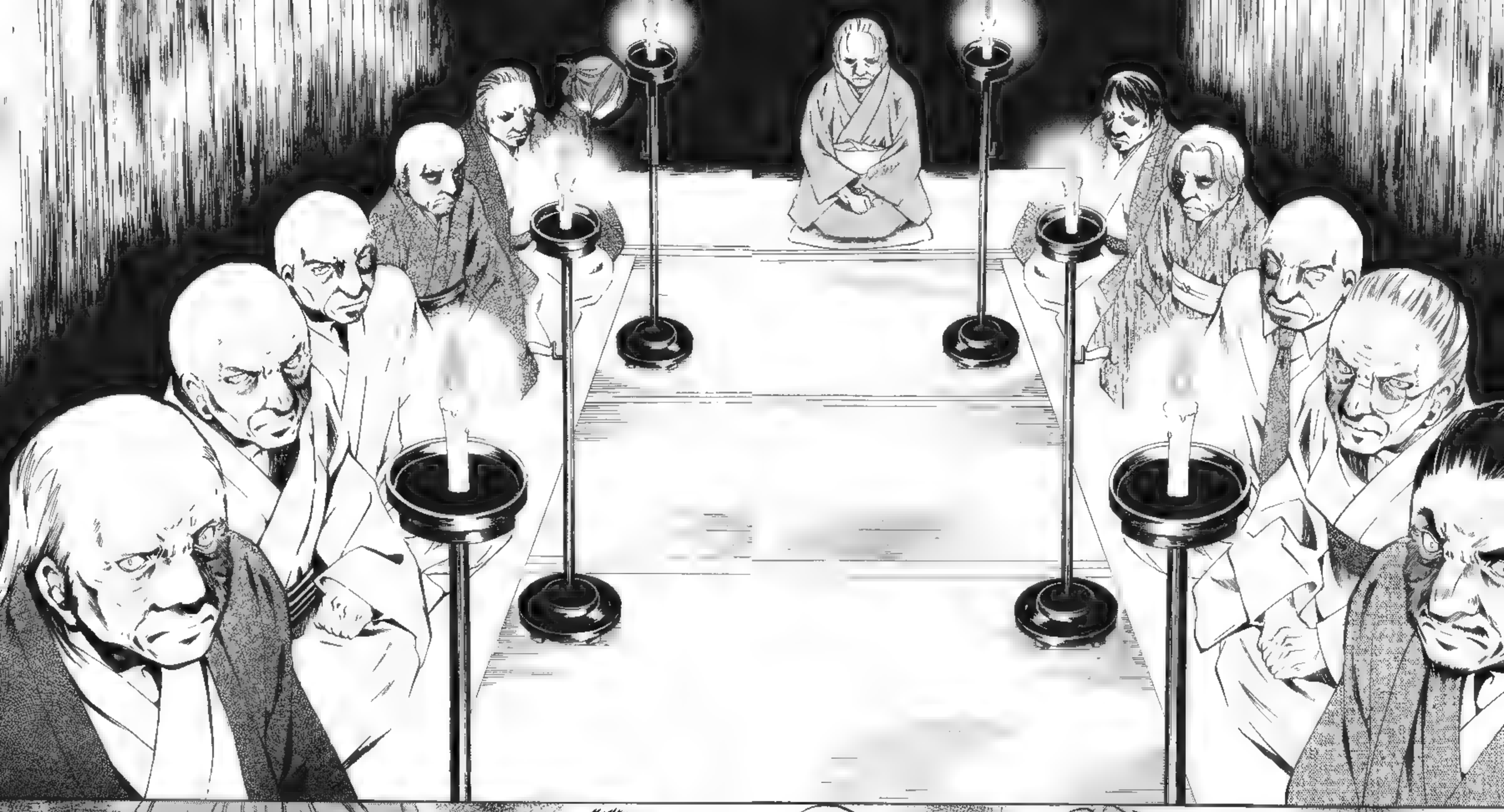
GIIII (CREEEEAK)

IS THIS THAT UNDERGROUND SAIGUDEN!?

IT CAN'T BE...

IT CAN'T BE...

THIS PLACE REALLY EXISTS...?



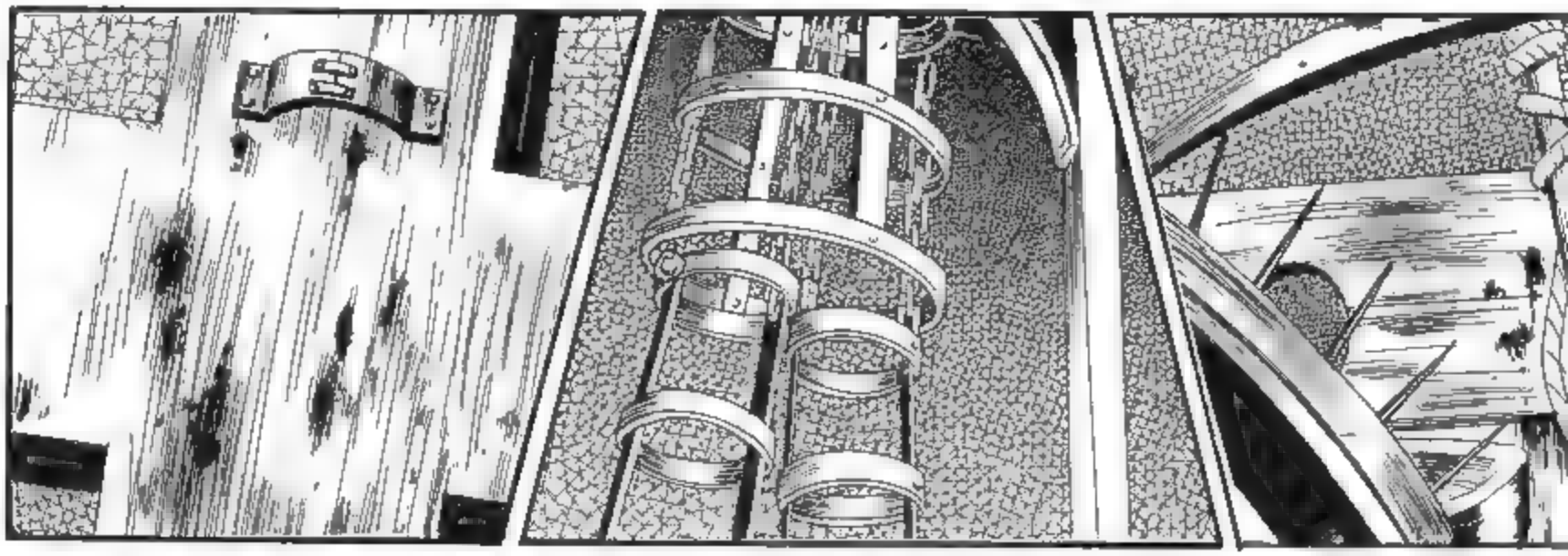
IF TWIN SUCCESSORS ARE BORN, STRANGLE ONE BEFORE GIVING IT ITS FIRST CLEANING!

ユラ
YURA (FLICKER)

...THEY'RE GOING TO DISPOSE OF ME...!?

IT CAN'T BE...

CHAPTER 7: RESTITUTION



BIKU (WINCE)
BATAN (SHUT)

AND WITH THAT HOJO BOY OF ALL PEOPLE!

HOW DARE YOU SHOW YOUR FACE HERE!!?

YOU STU-PID IMBE-CILE!!

SILENCE!

BUT! WHAT HIS PARENTS DID HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH SATOSHI-KUN!

...SHARES THE SAME FILTHY BLOOD!!

EVERY-ONE IN THE HOJO FAMILY ...

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

ONI-BABA!! WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT SATOSHI-KUN!?

KA (SNAP) カッ

YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW HIM, AND YOU TREAT HIM LIKE A PEST!!

DOES IT BOTHER YOU THAT MUCH THAT A SONO-ZAKI LIKE ME WAS WITH A HOJO!?

THAT'S RIDICU-LOUS!

RIDICU-LOUS!

I GET IT.

MION TATTLED ON ME?

BASICALLY, YOU DIDN'T LIKE THAT I LIKE HIM.

IT'S TRUE THAT I COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT ME BEING A SONOZAKI OR SATOSHI-KUN BEING A HOJO!

I DON'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT THE SONOZAKI HONOR!! THAT'S RIGHT, I ADMIT IT!

AAAAH-HA-HA-HA! IT'S SO STUPID!!

I LOVE HIM!

I LIKE SATOSHI HOJO-KUN!!

IS THAT SO WRONG!?

THAT'S ENOUGH, SHION.

WE UNDER-STAND YOUR RESOLVE.

ZOKU (CHILL)

YOU'LL HAVE TO MAKE RESTITU-TION.

BUT NOW THAT YOU'VE SAID ALL THAT, NO ONE CAN DEFEND YOU ANY-MORE...

THOUGH TECHNI-CALLY THE LOWEST RANKING OF THE THREE FAMILIES, WE ARE CURRENTLY THE MOST POWER-FUL.

THIS IS HINAMIZAWA, AND WE ARE THE SONOZAKI FAMILY.

RES-TITU-TION ?

WHY DO I HAVE TO—

AND YOU ARE THE TWIN SISTER OF MION SONOZAKI, THE NEXT HEAD OF THE SONOZAKI FAMILY.

MION... EVER SINCE I CAME BACK, WE COULD NEVER AGREE WHEN IT CAME TO THAT SORT OF THING.

HINAMIZAWA, THE SONOZAKI FAMILY— THOSE HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH ME.

LISTEN TO ME!!

BIKU (WINCE)

HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE HELPED YOU UP TO THIS POINT...

...SO THAT YOU COULD LIVE IN OKINOMIYA?

HA (GASP)

KASAI!

OJI-SAN!!

KASAI-SAN AND YOSHIROU-OJISAN ARE IN THAT ROOM BACK THERE...

...BUT HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT OF WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO THE PEOPLE WHO HELPED YOU?

IT'S ALL WELL AND GOOD FOR YOU TO BE PREPARED FOR WHATEVER MAY BEFALL YOU, SHION...

BUT MION ...

...DID I...SAY SOME-THING WRONG? IS WHAT I DID THAT BAD?

IF YOU MAKE RESTITUTION, THEY WON'T DO ANYTHING TO ANYONE BUT YOU. YOU WON'T CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR ANYONE.

SHION! APOLO-GIZE TO BATCHA!

...IF YOU CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR THOSE TWO OR FOR SATOSHI-KUN, WHO DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG?

DON'T YOU CARE ...

SHI-ON.

NO!

KASAI AND OJI-SAN TOO! NONE OF THEM HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THIS!

SATOSHI-KUN— NO!

PLEASE ...

ZURU (SLIDE)

FORGIVE THEM...

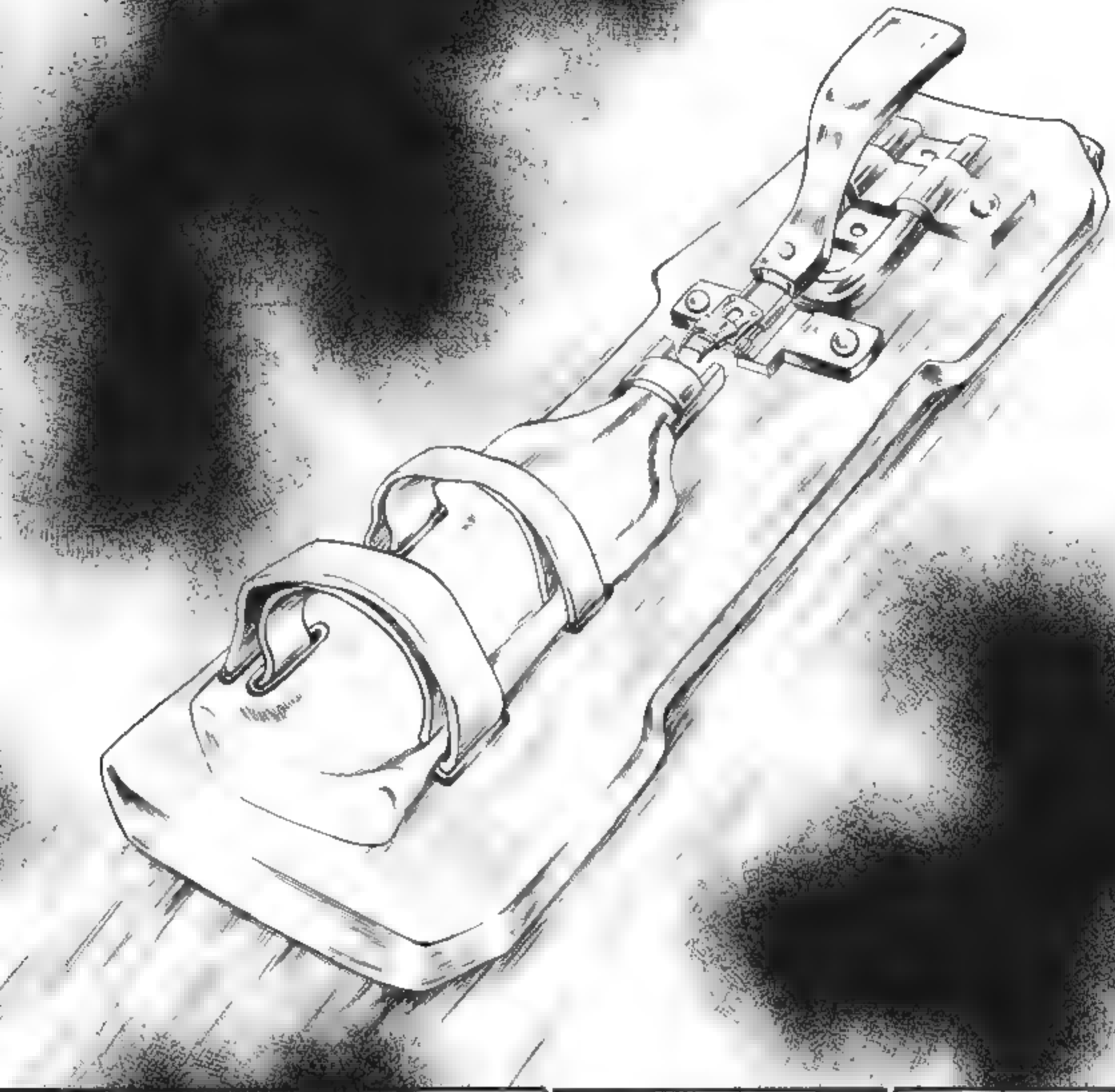
I...

I'M SORRY...

ALL RIGHT, SHION...HOW DO YOU PLAN ON MAKING RESTITUTION?

RESTITU-TION...?

I...WAS WRONG...GREAT HEAD OF THE SONOZAKI...



...WILL BE RESTITU-TION FOR EACH OF THEM.
EACH FINGERNAIL YOU PULL OFF...

IT'S A TOOL FOR TEARING OFF FINGER-NAILS.
...IS THIS?
WHAT ...

DOKUN (BADUM)

TEAR OFF THREE OF YOUR OWN FINGER-NAILS.

...SATOSHI-KUN...

...KASAI-YOSHIROU-OJISAN...

THREE...

WAIT!

THIS IS YOUR RESTITUTION. IT IS NOT A NEGOTIATION. IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT...

IF I TEAR OFF THREE OF MY FINGER-NAILS, YOU'LL FORGIVE THEM!! PROMISE ME!!

PROM-ISE ME!

Y-YOU'LL REALLY FORGIVE THE OTHERS!?

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

GUGU (PULL)

KACHI (CLICK)

GACHI

GACHI (RATTLE)

I'LL DO IT.

I... I'LL DO IT.

...KASAI.

HUFF

THE ONE WHO HELPED ME ESCAPE THE ACADEMY...

HUFF

THE ONE WHO GAVE ME A JOB AND HELPED ME EARN A LIVING, YOSHIROU-OJISAN.

AND...

HUFF

THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THEM.

IT WAS MY OWN SELFISHNESS THAT CAUSED ME TO RUN AWAY FROM SCHOOL.

IF IT WERE THEM...

THIS IS A GREAT BARGAIN ...!

THEY'LL FORGIVE THEM FOR THREE FINGERNAILS.

IT'S BECAUSE IT'S ME... BECAUSE I'M THE NEXT FAMILY HEAD'S SISTER.

RRAAAHH!

I'LL DO IT!!

IF IT WERE SATOSHI-KUN, I'M SURE HE'D DO IT...!

TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE IMPORTANT TO HIM!

IF IT WERE SATOSHI-KUN, HE WOULD DO IT!

IF IT WERE ANY OF THE OTHERS ...

AUGHNNNNGGGH!

BUWA (SEEP)

MEKYA (SNNNAP)

GAN (WHAM)

!!!

...TWO MORE TIMES ...!?

GAKU (TREMBLE)

I HAVE TO DO THIS...

I...

GAKU

SHION ...

...YOU CAN'T TAKE IT ANY-MORE ?

KATA (CHATTER)

SEE...? YOU CAN TELL BY THE LOOK ON MY FACE, CAN'T YOU?

THIS... REALLY HURTS ...

KATA

M-MION.

CAN THAT BE ENOUGH ...?

WELL, THEN ...

WAIT! DON'T LAY A HAND ON THEM!

I CAN DO IT!! I CAN DO IT!!

THIS IS A PIECE OF CAKE !!

DAN (WHAM)

BUWA (WHOOSH)

BIN (TWANG)

IT DOES NOT HURT ONE BIT!!

KACHA (CLICK)

THIS DOES NOT HURT !!

!?

NNNGH...!

JIKU (OOZE)

I HAVE TO...

...DO IT OVER ...?

JIKU (OOZE)

IT HURTS THIS MUCH, AND IT DIDN'T COME OFF?

IT DIDN'T COME OFF?

NOOOOO!!

NO!

NO!!

SHION!

IT HURTS! FORGIVE THEM!

I'M SORRY! I'M SORRY!!

SHION, IT'S ONLY TWO MORE. YOU CAN DO IT!

NOOOOOO!!

ZUPO (COVER)

SWISH

GRAB

UWAAAAHHH!!

GUGU

N-

NO!

GAH (GRAB)

GUGU (STRAIN)

DAN (WHAM)

I MADE RESTITUTION.

KASAI AND YOSHIROU-OJISAN WERE SET FREE.

AND I...

...WAS ALLOWED TO LIVE A QUIET LIFE IN OKINO-MIYA AS SHION SONO-ZAKI.

THE STUFFED BEAR IS GONE.

SO YOU BOUGHT IT, SATOSHI-KUN.

COACH ?

GOOD AFTER-NOON, SONOZAKI-SAN!

SASA (SHUFFLE)

PU-PUHH (H-HOONNK)

OH! THAT'S RIGHT. I CAN TELL YOU NOW.

WH-WHAT? REALLY?

PEKO (BOW)

I'M SORRY FOR LYING TO YOU ALL THIS TIME.

I DIDN'T KNOW SONOZAKI-SAN HAD A TWIN SISTER.

OOI-SHI-SAN.

NN-FU-FU. MY SENTI-MENTS EXACTLY.

I'M NOT ACTUALLY MION.

I'M MION'S TWIN SISTER, SHION.

HE KNOWS ABOUT MY FINGER-NAILS!?

IT'S ALL RIGHT. THEY'LL HEAL NICELY AS LONG AS THEY DON'T GET INFECT-ED.

HOW ARE YOU DOING, SHION-SAN?

SHION-SAN...

...WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN ME FOR SOME TEA?

WHAT DOES YESTERDAY HAVE TO DO WITH HIS AUNT'S MURDER?

WELL, YOU SEE.

I WANT TO KNOW HIS ALIBI FOR YESTERDAY.

NO, I'M NOT ASKING ABOUT HOJO-SAN'S ALIBI ON THE NIGHT OF THE MURDER.

WHAT? ARE YOU GOING TO ASK ME ABOUT SATOSHI-KUN'S ALIBI AGAIN?

SATOSHI HOJO-SAN WENT MISSING YESTERDAY.

YOU DIDN'T KNOW THAT SATOSHI-KUN WENT MISSING?

YESTERDAY ALL OF SATOSHI-KUN'S SAVINGS WERE WITHDRAWN FROM HIS ACCOUNT AT THE POST OFFICE.

WHAT ...!?

WHAT ?

JU (SIZZLE)

GAKU (SHAKE)

GAKU

SATOSHI-KUN IS MISSING ...?

WHAT ?

WHAT ?

SAVINGS...?

I SEE...

THIS IS JUST MY GUESS...

...SO SATOSHI-KUN WENT TO BUY THE BEAR YESTERDAY ...

THE MONEY FOR SATOKO'S STUFFED ANIMAL...

HE WAS SAVING THAT MONEY TO BUY A STUFFED BEAR FOR SATOKO'S BIRTHDAY!

GET-AWAY MONEY? THAT'S RIDICU-LOUS!

BAH (BAM)

...BUT I WONDER IF HE USED THAT MONEY TO DISAPPEAR, TO GO SOME-WHERE FAR AWAY...

BUT THERE'S NO DEFINITIVE PROOF THAT SATOSHI-KUN WAS THE ONE WHO BOUGHT IT.

IT'S TRUE THAT THE MOST EXPENSIVE DOLL AT THE TOY STORE IN QUESTION HAS BEEN SOLD.

AH...!

MY GRAND-FATHER IS SO SENILE.

YOU CAN JUST ASK THE SALES-CLERK...!

BA (BAM)

OH NO... THAT OLD MAN...

HE MIGHT NOT EVEN REMEMBER THAT HE SOLD THE TOY, LET ALONE THAT SATOSHI-KUN WAS THE ONE WHO BOUGHT IT!

LET'S SAY THAT SATOSHI-KUN DID BUY THE BEAR.

JU (SIZZLE)

ALL RIGHT.

SO HE COULDN'T HAVE USED THE MONEY TO RUN AWAY!

ANYWAY, SA-TOSHI-KUN WAS THE ONE WHO BOUGHT IT!

SO WHY DIDN'T HE TAKE IT HOME?

THE BEAR WAS SOLD...

...BECAUSE SATOSHI-KUN BOUGHT IT.

I HAVE NO DOUBT ABOUT THAT...

KAKU (SLUMP)

...DIDN'T GO HOME.

BUT SATOSHI-KUN...

BUT IN THAT CASE...

...THERE'S NO WAY HE WOULDN'T HAVE GIVEN IT TO SATOKO.

WITHOUT GIVING SATOKO THE TOY HE BOUGHT HER?

DID HE RUN BECAUSE THE POLICE SUSPECTED HIM?

I HAVE NO DOUBT ABOUT THAT EITHER.

SATOSHI-KUN KILLED HIS AUNT.

IMPOSSIBLE IMPOSSIBLE IMPOSSIBLE IMPOSSIBLE

SATOSHI-KUN CARED DEEPLY ABOUT SATOKO...

THAT'S WHY HE WORKED SO DESPERATELY TO BUY THAT BEAR.

SO WHY DIDN'T HE TAKE IT HOME?

IMPOSSIBLE IMPOSSIBLE

WHY WOULD HE DISAPPEAR BEFORE GOING HOME?

IMPOSSIBLE IMPOSSIBLE

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN, "DISAPPEAR"?

DOES THAT MEAN SATOSHI-KUN...

SATOSHI-KUN WOULD NEVER DISAPPEAR OF HIS OWN FREE WILL.

DISAPPEAR?

...WAS ERASED ...?

AH HA HA HA HA HA!

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!

THAT'S RIDICU-LOUS!!

AH HA!

AH HA!

ERASED!?

SFX: KATA (CLATTER)

June 24, 1982: Satoshi Hojo goes missing.

As Satoshi is a prime suspect for the murder that occurred on the 20th of the same month, police have assumed that he is on the run and are searching for his whereabouts.

There were early reports of a boy thought to be Hojo boarding a bullet train to Tokyo at Nagoya Station, but the report's validity is unknown.

Any subsequent actions are unknown.

At the present time, it is unknown whether he is still alive, much less where he is.

THE REPORTS ARE UNCONFIRMED, BUT A BOY MATCHING SATOSHI-KUN'S DESCRIPTION WAS SEEN AT NAGOYA STATION, ACTING AS IF HE WAS RUNNING AWAY FROM HOME.

SHION-SAN, PLEASE CALM DOWN.

...BUT THE SONOZAKI FAMILY WOULD NEVER ALLOW ONE OF THEIR DAUGHTERS TO BE ROMANTICALLY INVOLVED WITH A MURDERER.

THIS IS JUST MY GUESS ...

...ON THE CONDITION THAT THEY WOULD TAKE CARE OF HIS SISTER SATOKO-SAN...

I SUSPECT THAT THE SONOZAKIS COERCED SATOSHI-KUN INTO RUNNING AWAY...

SO...

...HE'LL COME BACK ...?

SA-TOSHI-KUN...

...IS ALIVE...?

CHAPTER 8

SATOSHI-KUN!

APPARENTLY THEY BROUGHT IN A MAN FOR QUESTIONING FOR A DIFFERENT CASE, AND HE CONFESSED TO IT AS ONE OF HIS PRIOR OFFENSES.

THEY FOUND THE ONE WHO KILLED SATOSHI-KUN'S AUNT.

EH? WHAT DID YOU SAY?

A PSYCHOPATH TRYING TO COPY THE SERIES OF MYSTERIOUS DEATHS... THAT'S THE STORY.

WHO WAS THE KILLER?

THEN...

THEN...

...WHY DID HE HAVE TO GO MISSING...?

SO SATOSHI-KUN HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE MURDER ...?

PSYCHO-PATH?

A certain day in June 1982.

A few days after the Cotton Drifting Festival, Satoshi Hojo went missing.

The following records are some notes I took to organize my thoughts, as well as a way to write down my remorse.

If I fail and meet with "Oyashiro-sama's Curse," causing me to disappear, then I want you who are reading this to help me.

Help me, someone who is nothing more than a powerless little girl.

CHAPTER 8: FATE

WE RECEIVED A CALL FROM THE PREFECTURAL POLICE THE OTHER DAY.

THEY SAID THAT A MAN THAT THEY HAD ARRESTED AND BROUGHT IN FOR QUESTIONING CONFESSED TO KILLING THE HOUSEWIFE.

OOISHI-SAN, WHAT ON EARTH DO YOU MEAN, YOU FOUND THE REAL KILLER?

...EVEN BEFORE WE GOT THAT CALL.

IT'S REALLY QUITE ABSURD.

HE WAS LONG DEAD...

SO IT LOOKS LIKE THE HOUSEWIFE MURDER CASE IS CLOSED.

I'M NOT CONVINCED, BUT IT SEEMS THE HIGHER-UPS HAD HEARD MORE THAN ENOUGH.

...SO THEY WEREN'T ABLE TO INVESTIGATE FULLY.

HE WAS IN HIS CELL WHEN HE SWALLOWED A SPOON AND SUFFOCATED. THEY DON'T KNOW IF IT WAS SUICIDE OR INSANITY...

DEAD ...?

THEY SAY...

...HE WAS "ABDUCTED BY DEMONS."

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT SATOSHI-KUN'S DISAPPEARANCE OVER IN HINAMIZAWA?

THIS IS THE FOURTH YEAR IN A ROW FOR THE SERIES OF MYSTERIOUS DEATHS.

IT LOOKS LIKE THIS YEAR'S INCIDENT IS GOING TO BE CHALKED UP TO OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE AGAIN.

ABDUCTED BY DEMONS?

CURSE?

DON'T WRITE OFF SATOSHI-KUN'S DISAPPEARANCE...

...AS SOMETHING SO UNEXPLAINABLE...!

PARA (FLIP)

THE SERIES OF MYSTERIOUS DEATHS IN HINAMIZAWA, ALSO KNOWN AS OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE...

THE FIRST YEAR WAS THE DISMEMBERMENT OF THE DAM CONSTRUCTION DIRECTOR.

THE SECOND YEAR WAS THE ACCIDENT THAT KILLED SATOSHI-KUN'S PARENTS.

THE THIRD YEAR WAS THE SUDDEN DEATH OF THE PRIEST AND HIS WIFE'S SUICIDE BY DROWNING.

THE FOURTH YEAR WAS THE FATAL BEATING OF SATOSHI-KUN'S AUNT.

AND SATOSHI-KUN'S DISAPPEAR-ANCE.

...THE FIRST YEAR WAS "THE ENEMY."

THE SECOND YEAR WAS "THE TRAITORS."

THE THIRD YEAR WAS "THE NON-COOPERA-TIVES."

IF YOU TRACE THE LINE OF RESENT-MENT FROM THE TIME OF THE DAM WARS...

...WAS "THE TRAITORS' RELATIVES."

AND THE FOURTH YEAR...

NOTES: FIRST YEAR / SECOND YEAR: TRAITORS / THIRD YEAR

YES. JUST LIKE I WAS FORCED TO MAKE RESTITUTION TO THE SONOZAKI FAMILY.

ON THE DAY OF THE FESTIVAL OF OYASHIRO-SAMA, THE GUARDIAN DEITY OF HINAMIZAWA, THE CRIMINALS OF THE DAM WAR ARE CURSED TO DIE.

...THEN WHETHER THE MURDERER WAS SATOSHI-KUN OR SOME RANDOM PSYCHOPATH, THE KILLER IS NOTHING BUT THE EXECUTIONER FOR CARRYING OUT THE FOURTH YEAR'S MURDER.

BUT IF THIS CASE IS A PART OF THOSE INCIDENTS...

THE INCIDENTS OF THE FOURTH YEAR...AT FIRST, I THOUGHT THEY HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE SERIES OF DEATHS.

...IS SOMEONE WHO GAVE HIM THE IDEA OF BEATING HIS AUNT TO DEATH!

AND BEHIND HIM...

...AND ERASED HIM...!

THAT SOMEONE USED SATOSHI-KUN TO CARRY OUT THE FOURTH YEAR'S CURSE!!

WHO ERASED SATOSHI-KUN...?

WHAT IS THEIR PURPOSE? THEIR GOAL? AND WHO ARE THE MURDERERS?

HOW LONG ARE THEY GOING TO KEEP IT UP...?

WHO'S DOING THIS, AND WHY?

WHAT ARE THESE INCIDENTS?

NOTES: OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE, OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE, OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE

OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE...

SERIES OF MYSTERIOUS DEATHS IN HINAMIZAWA...

I'M SORRY.

YOU'RE SONOZAKI-SAN'S TWIN, SHION-SAN, RIGHT?

BA (BAM)

I'M MIYO TAKANO.

I'M SO HAPPY... TO MEET A FELLOW RESEARCHER OF OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE.

EVERY YEAR, ONE PERSON DIES BY THE CURSE...

...AND ONE IS OFFERED AS A SACRIFICE AND DISAPPEARS.

SU (SS)

THE CHAIN OF MYSTERIOUS DEATHS KNOWN AS OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE...

EACH CASE SEEMS UNIQUE, BUT THEY WERE CLEARLY CARRIED OUT BASED ON A SINGLE WILL.

BUT WE MUSTN'T IGNORE THE CURSE, OR WE WILL BRING ABOUT AN EVEN GREATER CURSE...

OYASHIRO-SAMA WAS ANGERED BY HUMANS WHO OPPOSED THE VILLAGE DURING THE DAM WARS, AND SO THE CURSE BEGAN.

ONE PERSON DIES BY THE CURSE ...

...AND ONE... WHAT?

KUSU (CHUCKLE)

KUSU

ARE YOU SAYING THAT THE PERSON WHO GOES MISSING IS MADE A SACRIFICE? I NEVER HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT THAT.

...IT IS NECESSARY TO OFFER UP A SACRIFICE, TO CALM THE RAGE.

THAT'S WHY EVERY TIME THE CURSE STRIKES ...

WELL, THE SACRIFICIAL CEREMONY CONSISTS OF DROWNING THE VICTIMS IN THE BOTTOMLESS ONIGAFUCHI SWAMP.

OF COURSE, THE BODIES WOULD NEVER BE FOUND.

SO...THE PEOPLE WHO DISAPPEARED ARE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SWAMP...?

EVEN SATOSHI-KUN...?

I DON'T KNOW IF THEY'RE REALLY DROWNED IN THE SWAMP...

...BUT I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT WHO-EVER'S BEHIND IT IS AWARE OF THE RULES AND ERASES SOMEONE.

THE FIRST YEAR, THE RINGLEADER IN THE MURDER OF THE CON-STRUCTION DIRECTOR ESCAPED, AND NO ONE KNOWS WHERE HE IS.

THE SECOND YEAR, MRS. HOJO'S BODY NEVER SURFACED, AND THE THIRD YEAR, THEY NEVER FOUND THE BODY OF THE PRIEST'S WIFE.

AND NOW, IN THE FOURTH YEAR, SOME-ONE HAS DISAP-PEARED ...

IN OTHER WORDS, THE SERIES OF MYSTERIOUS DEATHS IN HINAMIZAWA COMES IN PAIRS— THE CURSE AND THE SACRIFICE.

BY REPEATING THE PROCESS EVERY YEAR, THEY'VE CREATED A SYSTEM OF KILLING THEIR BITTER ENEMIES FROM THE TIME OF THE DAM WAR, TWO PER YEAR.

PARA (FLIP)

I'LL MAKE AN EXCEPTION AND LEND YOU MY RESEARCH NOTES, SHION-CHAN, SINCE YOU'RE MY FELLOW RESEARCHER.

MIYO-SAN'S NOTES TOLD THE LEGEND OF OYASHIRO-SAMA.

THEY RECORDED THE DARK HISTORY OF HINAMIZAWA—THE LEGEND THAT THE BLOOD OF MAN-EATING DEMONS FLOWS IN THE VILLAGERS' VEINS AND THAT THE COTTON DRIFTING FESTIVAL WAS ORIGINALLY A FEAST OF HUMAN FLESH.

IT'S A SERIES OF MURDERS, REVIVING THE OLD HINAMIZAWA CUSTOMS!

PIN-POOON (DING-DOOONG?)

IF I READ THESE NOTES, I MIGHT GET CLOSER TO THE TRUTH OF THESE.

SU (SSK)

BASA (RUSTLE)

COMING!

GACHA (KACHAK)

KASAI?

SHION
...

...IT'S ME.

SHION...HOW DO YOU PLAN ON MAKING RESTITUTION?

UM, I BOUGHT SOME CAKE.

TEAR OFF THREE OF YOUR OWN FINGERNAILS.

LET'S EAT IT TOGETHER.

HMM... WELL, AS EXPECTED, MY NEW SCHOOL IS BORING.

I'M STILL GOING, BUT...

HOW ARE YOU GETTING ON?

KACHA (CLINK)

I SEE YOU'VE SETTLED IN.

I THINK HE'LL BE HAPPY TO HAVE YOU BACK.

AH-HA! DAD MISSED YOU AFTER YOU LEFT, SHION.

HMM, I MIGHT BE MOVING OUT SOON, SO NO THANK YOU.

DAD SAYS IF I'M GOING TO LIVE IN OKINOMIYA, I SHOULD GO LIVE AT HOME. HE WON'T STOP BUGGING ME ABOUT IT.

OH! IF THERE'S ANY FURNITURE YOU NEED, JUST TELL ME!

...MION'S DESTINY AS THE NEXT HEAD OF THE FAMILY WAS SEALED.

WHEN SHE WAS GIVEN THE DEMON TATTOO...

TO BE THE HEAD OF THE SONOZAKI FAMILY IS TO HAVE A DEMON LIVING INSIDE YOU.

...IS A DIFFERENT MION THAN THIS ONE.

THAT'S WHY THAT MION...

SHION.

EVEN NOW, OUR BODIES ARE EXACTLY ALIKE.

EXCEPT THAT MION HAS THE DEMON TATTOO ON HER BACK.

THE COLDHEARTED NEXT HEAD OF THE SONOZAKI FAMILY MION...

...AND MY TWIN MION ARE DIFFERENT PEOPLE.

HA (GASP)

HAVE YOUR FINGERS HEALED?

KACHA (CLINK)

THE WOUNDS HAVE CLOSED UP PRETTY WELL.

BUT THEY STILL LOOK PRETTY DEFORMED.

I'M SORRY...

I'M SORRY ...

OKAY! WITH THAT APOLOGY, WE'RE EVEN! IF YOU APOLOGIZE AGAIN, I WON'T FORGIVE YOU.

PAN (CLAP)

Y-YOU REALLY FORGIVE ME...?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO APOLO-GIZE. YOU DIDN'T HAVE A CHOICE BACK THEN.

YOU WERE JUST PLAYING YOUR PART AS THE NEXT HEAD OF THE FAMILY. I DON'T HOLD IT AGAINST YOU.

EVEN FOR WHAT HAPPENED WITH SATOSHI-KUN...?

ZUKIN (STING)

OF COURSE I KNEW...

...THAT YOU LIKED SATOSHI-KUN.

AH-HA-HA! I DID MAKE THAT PASSIONATE DECLARATION IN FRONT OF ALL THOSE PEOPLE.

BUT BATCHA REALLY DOES THINK YOU MADE YOUR RESTITUTION.

I'D BE IN TROUBLE IF SHE DIDN'T...

...AFTER ALL THAT PAIN.

I WONDER ...

...WHERE SATOSHI-KUN WENT...

WHERE...?

DOKU (BADUM)

I SUSPECT THAT THE SONO-ZAKIS COERCED SATOSHI-KUN INTO RUNNING AWAY.

SACRIFICIAL VICTIMS ARE DROWNED IN ONIGAFUCHI SWAMP.

DOKU

DOKU

MION...

WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY...?

YOU "WONDER WHERE SATOSHI-KUN WENT," YOU SAY...?

IF ANYONE SHOULD KNOW...

AH ...!

I'M SOR—

...

YOU

!!

...

IT'S

...

ぴた
ぴた
ぴた
ぴた
(STRANGLE)

GIVE HIM BAAACK!

GIVE SATOSHI-KUN BACK!

GIVE HIM BACK!

YOU DEMONED HIM AWAY ...!

THE MAIN SONO-ZAKI FAMILY ...!

SFX: GU (SQUEEZE)

MION.

YOUR FINGERS ...

HA (GASP)

YOU'RE LYING, YOU'RE LYING, YOU'RE LYING...!

GAKU (SHAKE)

GAKU

I DON'T KNOW ANY-THING... REALLY ...

... ABOUT SATO-SHI-KUN ...

THE SAME...

...RESTITUTION...

SHE HAS THE SAME SCARS I DO.

I KNEW... THAT YOU LIKED SATOSHI-KUN.

I WANTED YOU TWO TO BE HAPPY TOGETHER.

...KKH... BE THE ONLY ONE TO TEAR HER FINGERNAILS OFF.

...IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ...

...TOO SAD TO MAKE YOU...

KKH...! I MEAN... IT WAS ALWAYS JUST YOU...

I ALWAYS FELT SO BAD...

WE'RE TWINS. WE'RE THE SAME.

SO WHY WERE YOU THE ONLY ONE THEY DIS-CRIMINATED AGAINST?

...FEELS THIS STUPID SENSE OF DUTY TOWARD ME...

...THIS IDIOT...

AND...

...IT WOULDN'T BE STRANGE AT ALL IF MION LIKED HIM TOO.

JUST LIKE I LOVED SATOSHI-KUN...

YOU REALLY ARE... STUPID...

I TOLD HER I WANTED HER TO LEAVE YOU AND SATOSHI-KUN ALONE ...

HIKU (HIC)

HIKU

...AND SHE... NNH!

...SAID SHE'D LET IT GO IF YOU MADE RESTI-TUTION ...

I... I...

...I YELLED AT BATCHA.

SO ...!

SO ...!

YOU DID EVERYTHING YOU COULD, SHION!

SO YOU TWO SHOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO LIVE NORMAL LIVES AGAIN!

BUT ...!

BUT ...!

THOSE TEARS ARE SO CLUMSY.

SHE'S NOT A GOOD ENOUGH LIAR TO FAKE TEARS.

MION...

AAAAAHH!

BUT SATOSHI-KUN DISAP-PEARED ...!

...
BATCHA
...

...NONE OF THEM ARE INVOLVED, REALLY ...!

THE SONOZAKI FAMILY...

BELIEVE ME, SHION. I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHY SATOSHI-KUN DISAPPEARED.

YOU WERE HURTING MORE THAN I WAS, SHION.

NO, IT DOESN'T HURT...

MION SAID IT WASN'T THEM.

SO IT DEFI-NITELY WASN'T THEM...

IT WASN'T THE SONOZAKIS WHO HID SATOSHI-KUN.

MION
...

...I'M SORRY... DID THAT HURT...?

I BELIEVE IN MION'S TEARS.

THEN...DO YOU HONESTLY BELIEVE THAT SATOSHI-KUN DISAPPEARED BECAUSE OF OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE...?

SHE DIDN'T DO IT!

BUT IT WASN'T MION!

I DON'T BELIEVE IN THE CURSE!

IF IT WASN'T THE CURSE...

...AND IT WASN'T THE SONOZAKIS...

THEN WHO...

...DO YOU SUGGEST WOULD HAVE ABDUCTED SATOSHI-KUN...?

MION SAYS IT WASN'T THEM, SO IT WASN'T THE SONOZAKIS...!

ANY-WAY, IT WASN'T MION!

I DON'T KNOW THAT!

FOOLISH SHION.

SO YOU SAY YOU'LL PRETEND...

...YOU DON'T HEAR SATOSHI-KUN'S PLEA FOR VENGEANCE...?

I DON'T NEED YOU TO TELL ME, DEMON!!

I KNOW!

I KNOW!!

IF HE WAS KILLED, I'LL AVENGE HIM!

IF HE'S ALIVE, I'LL SAVE HIM!

I'LL DO SOMETHING TO HELP SATOSHI-KUN!!

YOU JUST WANT SOMEONE TO TAKE YOUR ANGER OUT ON!!

BUT IT WASN'T MION!

GET OUT OF MY HEART! DEMON!!

NEVER SHOW YOURSELF AGAIN!!

I'M ME!!

NOT A DEMON!!

WHY COULDN'T WE BE ONE PERSON?

I WONDER WHY WE'RE MION AND SHION.

YES...I'M OKAY NOW, MION...

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

SHI-ON...

I WANT US TO BE EQUALS AS TWINS...

IF YOU ASK ME, I DON'T CARE IF I'M MION OR SHION.

I WANT TO BE HUMAN LIKE YOU, SHION!

MION.

MION...

BA (GRAB)

I DON'T WANNA!!

I DON'T WANT THE DEMON...! I'M NOT A DEMON! I'M NOT A DEMON!

THE DEMON LIVES ON YOUR BACK, MION. YOU ARE DESTINED TO BE THE NEXT HEAD OF THE SONO-ZAKIS.

WE CAN'T HELP IT.

NO...

THEY DID.

PEOPLE AND DEMONS LIVED TOGETHER AS FRIENDS.

AND OYASHIRO-SAMA WATCHED OVER THEM FOREVER AND EVER.

ISN'T THAT THE HINAMIZAWA LEGEND?

MAYBE HUMANS AND DEMONS REALLY CAN'T LIVE TOGETH-ER?

WE'RE EACH OTHER'S TWIN, BUT WE'RE KEPT APART.

SHION IS A HUMAN.

MION IS A DEMON.

AND TIME
PASSES.

THE YEAR IS NOW 1983...

CHAPTER 9: FOOTSTEP

SHION! WHERE DID YOU GO!!?

HEEEEY!!

SHION!! I WON'T LET YOU GET AWAY!!

TAN (TMP)

BA (LEAP)

GUI (HOIST)

GASHI (CLAMP)

I GUESS THERE'S NOTHING FOR IT BUT TO GO SPEND SOME TIME AT MY FAVORITE HIDING PLACE.

TA (TAP)

TA

DAMN THAT TEACHER, CALLING HOME TO TELL THEM I CUT CLASS!

OW!

GA (WHACK)

GASHA (CRASH)

GASHA

GAAA (RARRR)

THE HELL, DAMMIT!!? YOU LITTLE!

DON (DUN)

ZUGOOOO (RRRAWR)

WE 'ONNA BURY YA !!!

RRAAH!

GRRAAH!

THE HELL YOU DOIN'!? RAWRRR !!

GUATE-MALA!!

THIS FEELING ...

H... HUH?

WILL SATOSHI-KUN COME TO RESCUE ME...?

NNGH! HIC!

...YEAH, RIGHT...

...I PRETEND TO CRY AGAIN ...

IF...

RAAH!

IT'S JUST LIKE WHEN I FIRST MET SATOSHI-KUN.

CUT IT OUT, DAMMIT !!

NO WAY...

CAN'T YOU SEE SHE'S ALREADY CRYING!?

SATOSHI-KUN...!?

WHO ...?

TRY TO LOOK COOL 'N' YOU'LL GET HURT !!

THE HELL, HEY !!?

N-NO, UM... SHE'S CRYING.

SO I WAS THINKING MAYBE THAT WAS ENOUGH AND YOU COULD LET HER OFF THE HOOK...

I SEE. WELL, IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY ...

GUH HUH HUH

IF YOU DON'T GOT ANY MONEY, YOU GOT NO CHOICE.

SFX: JIRI (STARE)

NO, I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY.

HA HA!

AHH!? YOU SAYIN' YOU'LL MAKE IT UP TO US FOR HER!?

SFX: GURIN (TURN)

EEHH !?

YOU'LL JUST HAFTA PAY WITH YOUR BODY!

THIS GIRL'S GOT A NICE MONS VENERIS, YOU KNOW WHAT I'M SAYING !?

I BET IT'S EVEN BETTER WITH HER CLOTHES OFF, MGEH-HEH-HEH-HEH-HEH!!

GUH-HEH-HEH

WE'LL EVEN PEEL YER SOCKS OFF.

GUH HEH HEH.

I HAVE NO CHOICE!

HEH-HEH-HEH

SU- (REACH)

BACHI (CRACKLE)

MAXIMUM OUTPUT! DON'T HOLD IT AGAINST ME IF YOU'RE ELECTRO-CUTED TO DEATH!

MWA-HA-HA. PEEL, PEEL, STRIP, STRIP.

HAA (HUFF) はあ

HEY! YOU'RE JOKING, RIGHT?

HAA はあ

WAKI (SQUIRM)

WAKI

WE'LL TAKE EVERY-THING OFF, FROM TOP TO BOTTOM!

YOU GUYS DON'T GET IT!!

KA (GLARE)

シュウウ

SHUUUUU (SHHHH)

NNGH ...

...STUPID PUNKS!!

DOGOOD (KAPOW)

YOU ...

BUT YOU GUYS ONLY HUNGER TO TAKE THEM ALL OFF! THAT MAKES YOU LESS THAN HUMAN!

WHAT MAKES HOMO SAPIENS DIFFERENT FROM THE ANIMALS!? THAT'S RIGHT! WE WEAR CLOTHES!

YOU CAN TAKE OFF HER CLOTHES, BUT NOT HER SOCKS!!

GOOOOO (WHOOOOSH)

I'M GOING TO REFORM YOU ALL! GRIT YOUR TEETH!!

GU-HAH!

BAKI (SNAP)

OGEH!

IN OTHER WORDS, YOU'RE NOT HUMAN UNTIL YOU'VE GOT CLOTHES ON!!

EVEN IF THE SUN COMES UP IN THE WEST!!

SFX: GOH (WHAM)

YOU OKAY, MION!?

HUH!?

HIKU (TWITCH)

WH-WHAT IS WITH THIS GUY ...?

'S WITH THIS GUY ...?

RUN AWAY!

RIGHT NOW, I COULD STAND UP TO COACH'S MAID IN HEAVEN!

HA HA HA.

TO THINK I THOUGHT FOR EVEN A SECOND THAT HE WAS SATOSHI-KUN...

WHEW. I NEVER THOUGHT I'D MASTER THE FAMILY FORCE FIELD HANDED DOWN FROM MY DAD IN A PLACE LIKE THIS.

SO CHEER UP!

BOSU (POFF)

WELL, I'LL PRETEND I DIDN'T SEE YOU NEARLY CRYING.

BUT I GUESS AGAINST THREE GUYS, EVEN YOU WOULD HAVE IT TOUGH, HUH!?

I WAS HOPING TO SEE WHAT KIND OF FINISHING MOVE THE DAUNTLESS MION WOULD PULL OUT!

IT HURTS...

THIS DOESN'T FEEL GOOD AT ALL.

BUT...

BUT...

...IT'S KIND OF WARM.

NIKO (SMILE)

WASHA (RUFFLE)

WASHA

WASHA

AND THEN, GUESS WHAT KEI-CHAN DID!

THAT WAS KEIICHI MAE-BARA.

A TRANSFER STUDENT WHO ONLY JUST MOVED TO HINA-MIZAWA.

YOU'VE REALLY TAKEN A LIKING TO KEI-CHAN, HAVEN'T YOU, ONEE?

TELL ME STRAIGHT. WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT HIM?

HMM, I GUESS IT'D HAVE TO BE THAT HE'S SO FUNNY.

OH YEAH! THE OTHER DAY AT THE CLUB!

KEI-CHAN IS THE BOY THAT MION IS INTERESTED IN.

I'M SURE I WOULD LIKE HIM TOO.

BUT IN THE END...

...I THINK SATOSHI-KUN IS MUCH MORE WONDERFUL.

I WONDER WHERE SATOSHI-KUN IS AND WHAT HE'S DOING RIGHT NOW.

IS HE IN A FOREIGN LAND, WAITING FOR THINGS TO BLOW OVER?

BUT THEY'VE ALREADY CLOSED THE CASE OF HIS AUNT'S MURDER, SAYING SOME DRUGGED-UP PSYCHOPATH DID IT.

THERE'S NO REASON FOR HIM TO WAIT FOR ANYTHING TO BLOW OVER.

EH...? RIGHT, AND THEN?

HA (GASP)

AND THEN, AND THEN, SHION.

BUN

BUN (SHAKE)

NO, NO!

DON'T FINISH THAT THOUGHT!

BUT I COULDN'T SAY THAT IN FRONT OF EV-ERYONE.

I MEAN, I WANTED ONE TOO.

AND GAVE OUT TOYS TO EVERY-ONE.

EVERY-ONE BUT ME.

AND THEN... OJI-SAN SAID, "THANKS FOR GETTING EVERYONE EXCITED TODAY."

HE SAID IT WASN'T "ME"...

AND HE DIDN'T GIVE IT TO ME...

BUT HE DIDN'T GIVE HIS TO ME.

KKU (HIC)

KKU

KEI-CHAN ...

...KNEW THAT I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO DIDN'T GET ONE.

I WANT TO DO IT OVER...

I WANT TO DO IT ALL OVER FROM WHEN I MET KEI-CHAN.

I WANT TO DO IT OVER SO THAT HE'LL THINK OF ME AS A GIRL.

YOU'RE TOO SERI-OUS, ONEE!

IF YOU WANT TO START OVER, AND HE HASN'T REALIZED ANY-THING, THEN YOU'RE SAFE, RIGHT?

CAN I DO IT OVER?

YOU TOTALLY CAN!

I AM APPALLED AT KEI-CHAN'S LACK OF SENSITIVITY, BUT IT'S THE RESULT OF ALL YOUR PAST ACTIONS.

SO START TODAY AND FIX UP YOUR LIFE, A LITTLE AT A TIME.

HO HO HO

DON'T GET ALL WEIRD ABOUT IT. JUST ACT LIKE NORMAL.

BUT SHOW HIM HOW YOU'RE DIFFERENT IN LITTLE WAYS!

PIN (FLICK)

AND LET THAT RENA GIRL HE GAVE THE DOLL TO KNOW WHAT'S WHAT !!

YEAH. I'LL DO MY BEST.

SMILE MOST OF THE TIME, AND CRY WHEN IT COUNTS!

GL (CLENCH)

IF YOU HAVE A RIVAL, YOU CAN'T BE CARELESS! TEARS CAN DRAW A MAN TO YOU, BUT THEY DON'T HAVE THE POWER TO TIE HIM DOWN!

NNGH... IT'S TRUE, RENA IS VERY FEMININE ...

THERE'S A STRONG POSSIBILITY THAT RENA CURRENTLY HAS MORE POINTS IN KEI-CHAN'S MIND THAN YOU DO!

E-EHH!? NO, YOU CAN'T!

GATA (CLATTER)

KURUN (SPIN)

MAYBE I'LL PRACTICE ON KEI-CHAN TOO!

NO, NO! IF YOU COME TO NINAMIZAWA, I'LL KICK YOU OUT!!

BUN

BUN (SHAKE)

AH-HA-HA-HA! IF YOU WANT, ONEE, WE CAN HAVE A RACE TO SEE WHO CAN ATTRACT KEI-CHAN FIRST.

CHANGING YOUR APPROACH BECAUSE YOU REALIZE THE DISTANCE BETWEEN YOURSELF AND THE BOY YOU LIKE...

...THAT'S A VALID CONCERN FOR PEOPLE OUR AGE. IT'S CUTE.

I'M HAPPY FOR YOU, ONEE. YOU'RE NOT A MINUTE TOO LATE.

...AND NO ONE WILL TRY TO STOP YOU.

YOU AND KEIICHI CAN HAVE FUN TOGETHER, MION...

I DON'T ENVY YOU.

I'M NOT JEALOUS.

...JUST BECAUSE THEY STOPPED ME.

I DON'T WANT PEOPLE TO STOP YOU...

I DON'T KNOW...

...WHERE HE WENT...

...OR WHEN HE'S COMING BACK.

AS FOR THE BOY I LIKE...

...HE'S GONE...

...AND ALL HER FRIENDS NOW...

MION'S HEAD IS FULL OF KEIICHI...

LOCKER: SATOSHI HOJO

北条 悟史

...FOR SATOSHI-KUN.

THERE'S NO ROOM THERE...

...WHAT ABOUT ME...?

SO...

HAVE I...

...SPENT THIS WHOLE YEAR UP UNTIL TODAY...

...THINKING ABOUT SATOSHI-KUN?

I'M STARTING TO GET USED TO THIS LIFE WITHOUT SATOSHI-KUN.

I'M STARTING TO BE LESS SUSPICIOUS OF MY PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS THAT DON'T INCLUDE HIM.

I'M STARTING TO GET USED TO MY NEW RELATIONSHIPS, WHICH INCLUDE KEIICHI MAEBARA.

RIGHT AFTER SATOSHI-KUN DISAPPEARED...

...I WOULD TRY TO GET INFORMATION OUT OF THE POLICE.

AND I DID SOME INVESTIGATING ON OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE AND THE VILLAGE'S DARK PAST.

BUT...

...THE MORE I INVESTIGATED...

...THE LESS I FELT LIKE SATOSHI-KUN WAS STILL ALIVE...

I GAVE THE SCRAPBOOK I BORROWED BACK TO MIYO-SAN.

SOON, IT WILL BE ONE YEAR...

...SINCE SATOSHI-KUN DISAPPEARED.

IT'S TABOO FOR THE HINAMIZAWA VILLAGERS TO TALK ABOUT THE CHAIN OF MYSTERIOUS DEATHS KNOWN AS OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE.

SO THEY PRETEND NOT TO KNOW ABOUT HIS AUNT'S MURDER ...

...OR HIS DISAP-PEARANCE. IT'S AS IF THEY NEVER HAPPENED.

SATOSHI-KUN'S EXISTENCE...

...MEMO-RIES OF HIM...

...THOUGHTS OF HIM...

...THEY'RE ALL TRYING TO FORGET.

SATOSHI-KUN WAS IN HINA-MIZAWA UNTIL JUST A YEAR AGO.

HE WENT TO SCHOOL THERE.

HE WAS THE SLUGGER OF THE HINAMIZAWA FIGHTERS, WHO ALWAYS CHOKED IN ACTUAL GAMES.

THERE WAS SOMETHING ABOUT HIM THAT MADE YOU NERVOUS FOR HIM, AND YOU COULDN'T LEAVE HIM ALONE.

HE WAS SO PURE AND SO WARM.

AND HIS EXISTENCE...

...WAS ERASED BY THE CURSE.

IT'S STARTING TO SEEM LIKE HE WAS NEVER HERE TO BEGIN WITH.

AND NEW PEOPLE LIKE KEI-CHAN...

...HARDLY EVEN KNOW HE EXISTED...

THEY HONESTLY THINK HE TRANSFERRED SCHOOLS...

I WANT TO GO SHOPPING WITH YOU AGAIN.

I MISS YOU! SATOSHI-KUN!!

I WANT TO GO TO YOUR BASEBALL GAMES TOGETHER.

I WANT TO TEASE YOU.

AND I WANT YOU TO PAT MY HEAD.

SATO-SHI-KUN!!

KANA (CH RP)

KANA

KANA

HONESTLY, KEIICHI-SAN, I AM DISGUSTED AT YOUR LEWDNESS.

HE CAN'T HELP IT, SIR. HE'S A BOY.

OHH.

にぱー NIPAAA ~BEAM

GIRI
GIRI
GIRI
GIRI (PULL)
OHH!
MII-CHAN, SHII-CHAN. YOU'RE BOTHERING KEIICHI-KUN.
NNNNGH.
YOU COULD STOP PULLING, SHION!
GO BACK TO OKIN-OMIYA!!
YOU HEARD HER, ONEE. KEEP THIS UP, AND YOU'LL TEAR KEI-CHAN IN HALF.
DON (THUD)
WELL, I'M GOING BACK TO OKIN-OMIYA!
EEK!
PA (RELEASE)
ROGER THAT!
BOSU (POFF)
ABOUT TODAY... UM...
THANKS!
AH! SHION!
BA (JUMP)
SEE YOU LATER, KEI-CHAN.

KAAAA (BLUUUSH)

NEVER COME BACK, SHION!!

SEE YOU, ONEE!

TA (TMP)

TA

BA (JUMP)

AH-HA-HA! HA-HA-HA!

HAA

HAA (HUFF)

KAKUN (TRIP)

I'M SORRY, I'M SORRY, I'M SORRY!

I'M SORRY! SATOSHI-KUN!

HAA

HAA

GAN (WHAM)

I RE-MEMBER YOU ...

I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN ABOUT YOU, SATOSHI-KUN!

...IT'S ALL OVER FOR ME.

IF YOU DON'T COME BACK...

HUFF

HUFF

PETA (THUD)

IT'S TRUE.

IT'S TRUE!

WITH YOU GONE, I CAN'T SMILE HAPPILY.

U (WHIMPER)

LIFE WITHOUT YOU, SATOSHI-KUN...

...IS GRAY...

...AND COLD...

...AND, POINT-LESS.

I CAN'T.

SEE YOU LATER, SHION.

GARI (SCRATCH)

THERE WASN'T ANY WARMTH THERE AT ALL!

IT WAS ROUGH AND PAINFUL AND THAT'S ALL!

IT DIDN'T MAKE ME HAPPY!!

BA

HUFF

BABA (SHAKE)

HUFF

HE DIDN'T MAKE ME HAPPY! HE DIDN'T FEEL WARM...!

HE'S CHILDISH AND IMMATURE!

I HATE INSENSITIVE GUYS LIKE HIM!!

NNGH!

I WASN'T HAPPY OR PLEASED...

NNGH!

NNGH! SATOSHI-KUN! UWAAAH ...!

IT'S NOT TRUUUE!!

I'M SORRY... SHION.

NNGH...

WHY ARE YOU APOLOGIZ-ING, SATOSHI-KUN...?

I BELIEVED THAT MY FEELINGS WOULD NEVER BE SHAKEN...

I SAID I WOULD WAIT FOR YOU FOREVER.

I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD APOLO-GIZE...

...I HAD LEFT MYSELF WIDE OPEN.

...BUT BEFORE I KNEW IT...

YOU KEEP ...

...DISAPPEARING FROM INSIDE ME.

SEEPING THROUGH ...

...AND LEAKING OUT.

...THE CRACKS ALL OVER MY BODY.

THE SATOSHI-KUN INSIDE ME...

...IS GRADUALLY SLIPPING THROUGH ...

...ARE YOU SUFFERING...

...BECAUSE I'M WITH YOU...?

WH-WHY WOULD I!?

I'M BE PRECIOUS TO ME, SATOSHI-KUN!

...I'M NOT SUFFERING AT ALL BECAUSE OF YOU!

...ALWAYS WITH YOU, SHION.

...IF I STAY WITH YOU FOR-EVER...

BUT...!

...IN THE END, MY EXISTENCE WILL HURT YOU...

WHICH WOULD YOU PREFER, SHION?

IF MY BEING WITH YOU WILL CHEER YOU UP EVEN A LITTLE, THEN I'LL STAY BY YOUR SIDE FOREVER.

BUT IF MY BEING WITH YOU MAKES YOU SUFFER, EVEN A LITTLE...

...THEN I'LL GO AWAY SOMEWHERE, WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT.

YOU'RE LYING!!

IT'S NOT TRUE, IT'S NOT TRUE !!!

DON'T TALK LIKE THAT...

YOU'RE NOT WITH ME AT ALL!!

THEN WHERE ARE YOU!?

I WANT YOU WITH ME...

I WANT YOU WITH ME...

I WANT YOU TO BE WITH ME FOREVER, SATOSHI-KUN!

OKAY...

I'LL STAY WITH YOU.

PA-PAAA (HUGGING)

...SHION...

ALWAYS...

SATOSHI-KUN...?

ZA (CRUNCH)

YOU'RE WITH ME, RIGHT?

YORO (STAGGER)

YOU'RE STILL WITH ME EVEN NOW, RIGHT...?

I SHOULD HURRY BACK TO OKINOMI-YA...

KANA (CHIRP)

KANA

KANA

ZAKU

ZAKU (CRUNCH)

ZAKU

ZAKU..

ZAKU..

PITA (STOP)

ZA

I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE HERE.

I SENSE SOME-ONE...

GYU- (CLENCH)

ONE ...

...EXTRA FOOT-STEP...!

BA (JUMP)

SAAAAA (WHOOSH)

HAAAA.

THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.

SOME-ONE'S HERE...

FUWA (FLOAT)

SAAAAA

GOKU (GULP)

WHO ...

WHO'S THERE ...?

SATOSHI-KUN...!?

I CAN'T SEE YOU...!

YOU'RE HERE WITH ME!

YOU'RE HERE!

BUT YOU WERE ALWAYS WITH ME, WEREN'T YOU!?

SATOSHI-KUN...!

THINGS I WANTED TO DO WITH YOU, FOOD I WANTED TO EAT WITH YOU.

AND, AND...

THERE ARE PLACES I'VE BEEN WANTING TO GO WITH YOU WHEN YOU CAME BACK.

I...NEVER FORGOT ABOUT YOU, SATOSHI-KUN.

SATOSHI-KUN.

I'M SO HAPPY RIGHT NOW...

I DOUBT I'VE EVER HAD A NIGHT AS HAPPY AS THIS ONE.

SO VERY HAPPY.

HITA (STEP)

PITA (STOP)

KOTSU (CLACK)

KOTSU

AFTER THAT...

...MY STRANGE SHARED LIFE WITH SATOSHI-KUN BEGAN.

I'll never get tired of my days with him.
I mean, he's so playful. He always matches his footsteps with mine, but if I stop suddenly, he panics and walks one extra step. It's just so adorable.
It pulls at my heartstrings. ☆

Higurashi

WHEN THEY CRY

EYE OPENING ARC

I'M WITH SATOSHI-KUN...

...SO I'M OKAY.

OF COURSE, I CAN'T TELL ONEE ABOUT THIS, AND I CAN'T TELL ANYONE AT SCHOOL EITHER.

BUT I CAN TELL. I CAN TELL HE'LL STAY WITH ME FOREVER.

SO...

...I'LL ...

...BE FINE NOW...

CHAPTER 10

CHAPTER 10:
THE 1983 COTTON DRIFTING

WILL YOU BE GOING TO THE COTTON DRIFTING TONIGHT, SHION-SAN?

YUP! I PLAN ON GOING AND HAVING WHATEVER FUN THERE IS TO HAVE.

MAYBE I'LL TEASE ONEE AND HER MERRY MEN.

I'LL GO LOOK AROUND THE FESTIVAL WITH SATOSHI-KUN!

BECAUSE SATOSHI-KUN LOVES TO SEE ME HAVING FUN WITH EVERYONE.

HELLO, KEI-CHAN, ONEE, AND EVERY-ONE!

GOOD EVE-NING!

SHION!? YOU'RE HERE AGAIN!?

OOHHH, ONEE! DON'T BE SO MEAN TO ME!

GOOD EVENING, SHII-CHAN!

ACK!

DARN IT, SHION !!

AH HA HA HA!

KIII (GRRR)

TA (TEP) TA

たっ、たっ、

KAA (BLUUUSH)

PUNI (SQUISH)

Right, Kei-chan ...?

You don't mind if I join you, do you?

...I WISH YOU COULD PLAY WITH EVERY-ONE TOO.

SATO-SHI-KUN...

...I'M SORRY ...

DON (BUMP)

WHEW.

I'M TOMITAKE! THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE INTRODUCED MYSELF, ISN'T IT, MION-CHAN'S TWIN-SAN?

AND, UM...

OH, SHION-CHAN.

YOU HAVEN'T BEEN TO THE LIBRARY. I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU MORE AS MY FELLOW RESEARCHER.

AH-HA-HA. MAYBE IF I FEEL LIKE IT.

TAKANO-SAN!?

THE SAI-GUDEN ...

I HEARD ONLY MEMBERS OF THE FURUDE FAMILY AND VERY SELECT MEMBERS OF THE OTHER TWO OF THE THREE FAMILIES COULD GO IN THERE.

EH!?

ACTUALLY, WE WERE JUST ABOUT TO GO INTO THE SAIGU-DEN.

THE SAI-GUDEN ...

ACCORDING TO TAKANO-SAN'S THEORY, THERE'S A MOUNTAIN OF TORTURE DEVICES INSIDE...

DOOON

DOOON (BOOOM)

ZAWA (MURMUR)

ZAWA

ZAWA

IF YOU WANT TO JOIN US, SNEAK AWAY LATER.

...SO I DELIBERATELY LOOKED THE OTHER WAY.

I WANTED TO RUN AWAY FROM THE POSSIBILITY THAT SATOSHI-KUN HAD ALREADY BEEN KILLED...

...THEN SATOSHI-KUN WOULD HAVE BEEN MADE INTO A SACRIFICE TO CALM OYASHIRO-SAMA'S WRATH.

IF HER THEORY IS CORRECT AND THE OLD CUSTOMS OF ONIGAFU-CHI VILLAGE ARE STILL AROUND...

IT'S BEEN ONE YEAR SINCE SATOSHI-KUN WENT MISSING

TO THINK THAT I WOULD BE GRACED WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO GO INSIDE THE SAIGUDEN ON THIS NIGHT, ONE YEAR LATER.

BUT IF I HAVE AN ACCOMPLICE..!

I'M NERVOUS.

KEI-CHAN!

NN?

TON (PAT)

DON

DON (BOOM)

SFX: KOTSU (CLACK)

コッ KOTSU

コッ

BE CAREFUL. IT'S DARK.

ギィ (CREEEAK)

キィ

IF YOU'RE THE ONE WHO ERASED SATOSHI-KUN...

OYASHIRO-SAMA.

...I WON'T FOR-GIVE YOU!

I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU!

OYASHIRO-SAMA.

THAT'S HINAMI-ZAWA'S GUARDIAN DEITY.

GU (CLENCH)

IT'S EXACTLY LIKE WHAT I SAW UNDER-GROUND AT THE SONOZAKI ESTATE...

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT!

THE THREE FAMILIES ARE STILL KEEPING THE SAIGUDEN IN GOOD SHAPE.

BASED ON THE PATTERN, IT MUST BELONG TO RIKA FURUDE.

THIS HAND-KER-CHIEF.

THEY'RE IN GOOD CONDI-TION.

SU (TOUCH)

THE FLOWERS ARE FRESH —TOO.

THE CRUEL MALICE DWELLING INSIDE THIS SAIGUDEN...

...STILL HAS STRONG ROOTS IN HINAMIZAWA TO THIS DAY!!

SOME HUMAN ...!!

SOMEONE IS TRYING TO MAKE THAT IDOL GREATER THAN WHAT IT IS.

OYASHIRO-SAMA IS JUST A SIMPLE IDOL STATUE MADE OF BRONZE OR WOOD.

THEY ARE THE REAL CRIMINALS BEHIND THE SERIES OF MYSTERI-OUS DEATHS IN HINAMI-ZAWA!!

THE HUMAN WHO "DEMONED AWAY" SATOSHI-KUN ISN'T THAT FAR AWAY!

KY TAN (THUMP)

PIKA (WINCE)

BA (JUMP)

IT WASN'T TAKANO-SAN!?

BIKU (WINCE)

DAN (THUMP)

DAN

DID TAKANO-SAN DROP HER SCRAP-BOOK OR SOME-THING?

DAN

DAN

IT SOUNDS LIKE STOMPING... FOOTSTEPS...?

HEY... YOU ARE...

...SATOSHI-KUN... RIGHT?

DAN

DAN

DAN

ARE YOU ANGRY, SATOSHI-KUN!?

IS THAT YOU, SATOSHI-KUN!?

SHIN (SILENCE)...

DA DASH

AH...!

AH...

JIRI (CHILL)

YOU'RE...

...NOT SATOSHI-KUN...?

WAH!

DON (WHAM)

YOU KNOW YOU LIKE IT.

AH-HA-HA. ISN'T IT STANDARD IN HAUNTED HOUSES FOR A GIRL TO CLING TO A BOY?

WHAT'S WRONG, SHION?

DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE SCARED?

DAN
DAN
...ARE TOOLS FOR KILLING PEOPLE!
THESE ODDLY SHAPED DEVICES ...
DAN
DAN
DAN
DAN
DAN THUMP
NOW THAT I'VE TOLD YOU ALL THAT, YOU UNDER-STAND, RIGHT?
DON'T THEY HEAR IT?
DAN
YES, I'M FINE.
ANYWAY, YOU LOOK PALE, KEI-CHAN.
WHY?
SHION, ARE YOU OKAY?
HA (GASP)
HEE HEE... LOOK AT THIS ARTICLE.
PARA (FLIP)
SO...YOU'RE DOING RESEARCH TO SEE IF THOSE CUSTOMS ARE STILL AROUND TODAY, RIGHT, TAKANO-SAN?
PA (FWIP)
THAT'S RIGHT! IGNORE IT! IGNORE ...!
DON'T LET IT BOTHER YOU!
DAN
IF YOU DON'T THINK ABOUT IT, YOU WON'T HEAR IT!
DAN

DAN

DAN (THUMP)

IN HINAMIZAWA VILLAGE, FORMERLY KNOWN AS ONIGAFUCHI VILLAGE

DAN

SUCH BRUTAL INHUMANITY—

IN FACT, AROUND THE END OF THE MEIJI ERA, A BODY WAS FOUND BRUTALLY MURDERED...

DAN

DAN

HEY!?

HEY...!!!

HEY, ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN'T HEAR THIS!?

DAN

DAN

DAN

DAN

YUSA (SHAKE) ユサ YUSA ユサ

NNN ...

SHION, WAKE UP!

YOU HAVE SCHOOL TOMOR-ROW, DON'T YOU?

SFX: KOTE. (THUNK)

HAAA (SIGH) はー、ニネ

TOMOR-ROW'S THE SCHOOL'S ANNIVER-SARY, SO I DON'T HAVE TO GO.

HOW MANY ANNIVER-SARIES DOES YOUR SCHOOL HAVE EVERY YEAR?

ぽ POOO (AAAZE)

SHION.

SHION, COME ON!

ワイ WAI ワイ WAI (CLAMOR)

AH HA HA HA!

KACHI 十4

KACHI (TICK)

OH WELL. KASAI-SAN, WE'LL BE KEEPING SHION TONIGHT.

UNDER-STOOD. PLEASE TAKE GOOD CARE OF HER.

LATER, KASAI.

ONEE?

MMM ?

ONEE ...

ONEE ...?

ZAWA (RUSTLE)

ZAWA

BUT...

KACHI 4.

4. KACH.

I DON'T SENSE THAT PRES-ENCE...

HERE I FINALLY MANAGED TO GET MY MIND OFF OF IT AT THE BANQUET...

BURU (SHIVER)

ONI-BABA'S ROOM...?

GISHI (CREAK)

ギシ

GISHI

ギシ

ONEE ...?

THEY INCURRED OYASHIRO-SAMA'S WRATH, SO IT COULDN'T BE HELPED.

YES, WELL.

THOSE YOUNG'UNS STUCK THEIR NOSES IN A BIT TOO FAR.

I THINK WE CAN.

THE POLICE SAY THEY WON'T INVESTIGATE.

BUT CAN WE BE SURE ABOUT THAT?

PROBABLY TAKANO-SAN AND TOMITAKE-SAN.

AND TODAY'S DATE...

TAKANO-SAN AND TOMITAKE-SAN...

OYASHIRO-SAMA...

THE POLICE...

TAKANO-SAN AND TOMITAKE-SAN INCURRED OYASHIRO-SAMA'S WRATH?

SHE JUST SAID... "THEY INCURRED OYASHIRO-SAMA'S WRATH, SO IT COULDN'T BE HELPED"...

GAKU (SHIVER)

GAKU

YORO (STAGGER)

HOW !?

IT HAPPENED A FIFTH YEAR!!

THEY KNOW!!

SO THEY'D ALSO KNOW... ABOUT KEIICHI GOING WITH THEM...AND ABOUT ME...!?

JIRIRIRIN

JIRIRIRIN

JIRIRIRIN

JIRIRIRIN

JIRIRIRIN (RRRRRING)

DOKUN (BADUM)

HITA (STEP)

YORO

YORO (STAGGER)

HFF!

HUFF!

I HAVE TO HIDE...

YORO

IT'S HERE.

IS THAT YOU, SATOSHI-KUN...?

SA-TOSHI-KUN ...?

SATOSHI-KUN WOULD NEVER GIVE OFF SUCH AN OVERPOWERING SENSE OF DREAD!

NO! YOU CAN'T BE SATOSHI-KUN!

WHO ARE YOU ...!?

THEN WHO ARE YOU...!?

...LOOKING DOWN AT YOU...

HEARING THE "STEP, STEP"...

...ALWAYS BEING FOLLOWED BY FOOT-STEPS...

...HAVING A PRESENCE STANDING AT YOUR PILLOW...

HAVE YOU EXPERI-ENCED IT, MII-CHAN ...?

GA (GRAB

GA (WHACK)

GURA (SWAY)

GAN (WHAM)

GH ...!!

ZURU (DRAG)

AH ...!!

GORO

GORO (ROLL)

JUST LIKE SATOSHI-KUN.

THEY'RE GOING TO ERASE ME...

I'M GOING TO BE ERASED.

AM I GOING TO BE "DE-MONED AWAY"!!?

ONEE...

b)

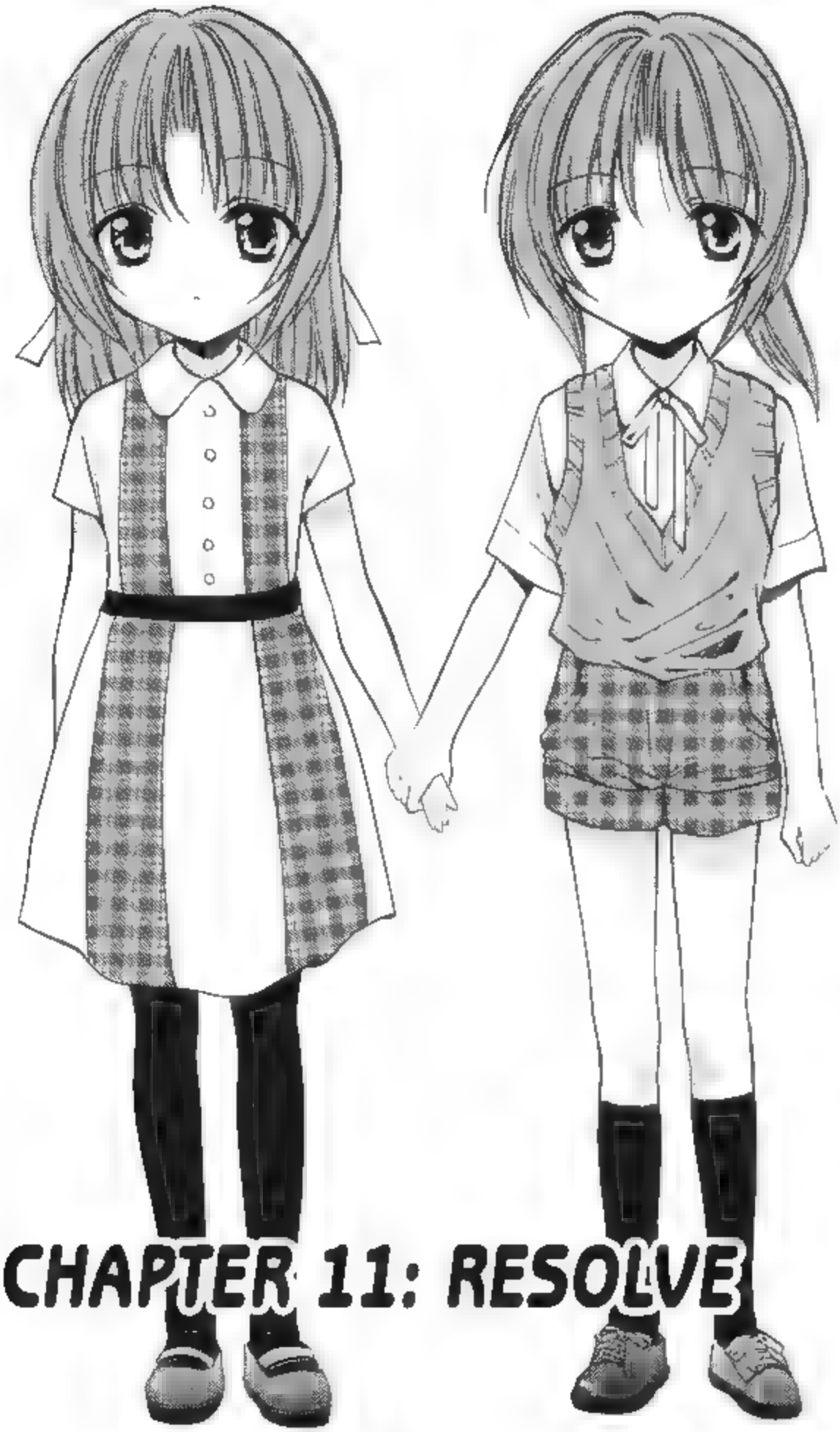
b)

Higurashi

WHEN THEY CRY

EYE OPENING ARC

WE WERE
ALWAYS BOTH
MION AND
SHION.



CHAPTER 11: RESOLVE

HAPPINESS AS MION.

SADNESS AS SHION.

UKKU (SOB)

UKKU

UNTIL THAT DAY...

WE ALWAYS SHARED EVERY-THING.

GACHA (CLICK)

...THIS IS MION.

JIRIRIRIN (RRRRING)

JIRIRIRIN

I SEE. I UNDERSTAND.

GACHA

PLEASE TAKE CARE OF SILENCING ALL OF THEM.

GWI (YANK)

SILENCING...?

WERE YOU LISTENING?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN ...?

I...I DON'T KNOW... AH-HA-HA...

OW ...!

GA (GRAB)

TOMITAKE-SAN AND TAKANO-SAN MET WITH OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE.

IT'S EXACTLY LIKE YOU HEARD IT.

!!?

TOMITAKE-SAN CLAWED OUT HIS THROAT WITH HIS OWN HANDS AND DIED.

AH HA...

カリ カリ KAKU...KAKU (SHIVER)

AND I UNDERSTAND THAT TAKANO-SAN WAS STUFFED IN AN OIL DRUM AND BURNED TO DEATH DEEP IN THE MOUNTAINS.

IT IS TRULY UNFOR-TUNATE.

OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE...? WHAT'S THAT?

WH-WHY DID THEY DIE LIKE THAT, I WONDER...

YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW THAT?

BECAUSE THEY INCURRED OYASHIRO-SAMA'S WRATH.

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.

NO WAY...

THEY KILLED THEM SO BRUTALLY OVER THAT!?

ALL THEY DID WAS A LITTLE SNEAKING AROUND... AND THEY WERE KILLED!?

I KNOW IT'S THE FORBIDDEN SAIGUDEN AND EVERYTHING, BUT IT'S JUST A STOREHOUSE FOR TORTURE DEVICES, RIGHT!?

GAH (GRAB)

...THAT ERASED SATOSHI-KUN!!

BATSUN (ZAP)

SU (REACH)

THE SAME SONOZAKI FAMILY...

THIS IS THE SAME SONOZAKI FAMILY THAT MADE ME TEAR OFF MY FINGER-NAILS.

...THEY PROBABLY CAN...

DOSA (THUD)

SATOSHI-KUN. I FINALLY UNDERSTAND.

I FINALLY KNOW WHAT I NEED TO DO.

SATOSHI-KUN.

MION... WHO WAS IT?

I WILL AVENGE YOU.

I WON'T BE KILLED LIKE YOU WERE.

I WILL DESTROY THOSE WHO DESTROYED YOU...

BATSUN (ZAP)

NGH ...

SHION ...?

WH- WHAT ...

...DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING ...?

GOOD MORN- ING, MION.

YOU NEVER THOUGHT YOU WOULD BE THE ONE LOCKED UP, DID YOU?

ALTHOUGH, EVEN IF YOU COULD TALK LIKE THAT...

...RIGHT NOW IT WOULD ONLY MAKE ME LAUGH!

AH-HA-HA-HA! YOUR TONE ISN'T QUITE INTIMIDATING ENOUGH! THE GREAT HEAD OF THE FAMILY HAS TO SAY IT WITH MORE ARROGANCE!

I ORDER YOU AS THE ACTING HEAD OF THE SONO-ZAKI FAMILY! OPEN THIS CELL!

DID YOU IN-JECT HIM WITH SOME WEIRD DRUG TO DRIVE HIM CRAZY?

AND STUFFING TAKANO-SAN IN AN OIL DRUM AND BURNING HER TO DEATH. I'M IMPRESSED.

SO, TOMITAKE-SAN AND TAKANO-SAN WERE THIS YEAR'S VICTIMS.

.....

HOW DID YOU GET TOMITAKE-SAN TO TEAR OUT HIS OWN THROAT?

I NEVER WOULD HAVE GUESSED.

IT MIGHT BE BETTER FOR YOU NOT TO GET YOUR HOPES UP...

BIIIN (PIIING)

GAN (WHAM)

NOW THAT I'VE COME THIS FAR, THERE'S NO GOING BACK.

...THAT I'LL SHOW YOU ANY MERCY OR HESITATE, ONEE.

THE SERIES OF MYSTERIOUS DEATHS IN HINAMIZAWA, ALSO KNOWN AS OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE...

NOW, I'M GOING TO ASK YOU.

...WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN? ARE YOU REALLY SETTLING ALL YOUR GRUDGES FROM THE DAM WAR?

YOU DON'T KNOW ANY OF THE DETAILS ABOUT IT?

YOU "THINK"? THAT'S NOT A VERY RELIABLE ANSWER.

I... MM...

...THINK THAT'S PROBABLY RIGHT.

I'M NOT PRIVY TO THAT INFORMATION.

BATCHA DECIDES ALL THE DANGEROUS STUFF ON HER OWN.

EVEN YOU SHOULD KNOW, SHION.

AS NEXT HEAD OF THE FAMILY, I'M NOTHING MORE THAN BATCHA'S SUCCESSOR.

WHO? WHO'S INHERITING THE YIN?

I DON'T KNOW... I DON'T EVEN HAVE A GUESS ...

I DON'T FULLY UNDERSTAND IT EITHER.

BUT I THINK THAT I'M INHERITING ALL OF THE YANG ASPECTS, AND THERE'S SOMEONE ELSE INHERITING THE YIN.

IT'S NOT LIKE THAT! SHE DOESN'T GO THROUGH ME!

BUT EVEN IF IT'S ALL ONI-BABA'S DECISION, SHE GOES THROUGH YOU TO COMMUNICATE, RIGHT?

YOU HAVE TO KNOW SOMETHING...

IS IT BECAUSE THEY SNUCK INTO THE SAIGUDEN?

SO WHY WERE THEY CHOSEN?

THIS YEAR'S VICTIMS, TOMITAKE-SAN AND TAKANO-SAN, HAVE NO DIRECT CONNECTION TO THE DAM.

THEN LET ME ASK YOU A DIFFERENT QUESTION.

KOTSU (CLACK)

KOTSU

THEY DEFILED THE SAIGUDEN AT FURUDE SHRINE ...!?

THE SAIGU-DEN!?

THAT'S STUPID ...

OF COURSE THEY WOULD ...

IF THEY DID THAT...

OH? I WAS SURE YOU KNEW...

OF COURSE THEY WOULD ...

...BE KILLED ...?

OF COURSE THEY WOULD WHAT ...?

YOU JUST DON'T KNOW, SHION.

WE'RE JUST CHILDREN. IN OUR WORLD, IF YOU TALK ABOUT A CURSE, WE'LL JUST THINK, "OH, IT'S A SUPERSTITION."

BUT I DON'T THINK THAT IT MERITED DYING THE WAY THEY DID.

WELL, EVEN I KNOW THAT THE SAIGUDEN IS A PLACE YOU WANT TO STAY AWAY FROM.

...TO THE ELDERLY IN HINAMIZAWA, IT'S MUCH MORE SERIOUS THAN THAT!!

BUT...

THE SACRIFICE'S BODY IS NEVER FOUND...

...WASN'T THE CURSE'S RULE THAT IF ONE PERSON DIES, ONE PERSON MUST BE SACRIFICED?

BUT MION...

I SEE.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THAT?

...BUT BOTH BODIES WERE FOUND THIS YEAR.

OR MAYBE ...

MAYBE THEY WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO FIND TAKANO-SAN'S BURNED CORPSE.

MAYBE THEY ACTUALLY WANTED IT TO LOOK LIKE TAKANO-SAN DISAPPEARED?

IT DOES ...

...SEEM WEIRD.

MION DOESN'T KNOW THAT KEIICHI AND I SNUCK INTO THE SAIGUDEN.

...THERE WERE FOUR PEOPLE ...

...WHO SNUCK INTO THE SAIGU-DEN?

KOTSU
コツ

KOTSU (CLACK)
コツ

GUI (YANK)

YOU'RE NOT TRYING TO GET THROUGH THIS BY PRETENDING YOU'RE ASLEEP, ARE YOU?

WILL YOU PLEASE OPEN YOUR EYES SOON?

BASA (FWOOSH)

ONI-BABA-SAMA.

KOTSU (CLACK)

KOTS...

HMPH.

...BUT IT'S A ZIPPO LIGH-TER.

JIJI (CRACKLE)

CAN YOU SEE THIS? I DON'T KNOW WHO LEFT IT...

BA (WHIP)

YOU DON'T LIKE THAT, DO YOU? I DON'T LIKE IT EITHER.

SO PLEASE STOP PRETEND-ING TO BE ASLEEP AND WAKE UP.

I'M GOING TO USE THIS TO BURN YOUR NOSE OFF.

SHE'S DEAD !!?

JU SIZZLE

JIJI (CRACKLE)

GA (GRAB)

I WON'T FOR-GIVE HER!

BUT SHE HASN'T MADE A SINGLE APOLOGY TO SATOSHI-KUN!!

DON'T TELL ME THE STUN GUN KILLED HER!?

BISHI

BIRI (RIP)

BISHI (WHIP)

YOU!!

BISHI

GARI (CRACK)

YOU!!

YOU!!

BURI (TEAR)

GA (WHACK)

BI (RIP)

YOU!!

HYUN (SWOOSH)

HA (GASP)

PARA

PARA (PATTER)

HAA (HUFF)

HAA

DID YOU LEARN YOUR LESSON?

ONI-BABA?

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN THERE?

ARE YOU THE ONE?

THE THING THEY CALL OYASHIRO-SAMA?

THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE!

YOU'VE GOT TO BE KID-DING!

IT WAS ALL DONE BY HUMANS TO LOOK LIKE OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE!

BISHI (WHIP)

SO YOU'RE OYASHIRO-SAMA, AND THE CURSE REALLY IS OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE?

WHO WOULD BELIEVE THAT!? WELL!?

...A LONG TIME AGO, ONE OF OUR RELATIVES TOLD US, REMEMBER?

HEY MION...

KOTSU

KOTSU (CLACK)

THEY SAID THAT SOMEWHERE IN THIS UNDERGROUND TORTURE CHAMBER, THERE'S A HIDDEN WELL WITH A SECRET PASSAGE THAT LEADS TO THE OUTSIDE.

GI (CREAK)

GI

THERE'S A CELL IN THE DARKNESS, SEE? IN THERE...

BACK... BACK THERE...

IF YOU DON'T ANSWER ME, I MIGHT BEAT ONI-BABA EVEN MORE.

KII (CREAK)

JARI (CRUNCH)

KOTSU

KOTSU (CLACK)

I DON'T EVEN WANT TO...

HAVE YOU EVER GONE TO THE BOT-TOM OF THE WELL, MION?

AH-HA-HA. I AGREE. THE WELL WHERE THEY TOSSED THE BODIES OF THEIR TORTURE VICTIMS...

KARA (CRUMBLE)

SHION!

YOU'RE GOING TO PUSH BATCHA DOWN THERE!?

!?

GI (CREAK)

I'M NOT "PUSHING" HER. I'M THROWING HER AWAY.

IT WASN'T MY TORTURING HER THAT KILLED HER.

I THINK SHE DIED FROM THE STUN GUN.

.....

SHE'S ALREADY DEAD.

SHION, WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS...?

...SA-TOSHI ...?

IS THIS RE-VENGE !?

ギィ GII

WELL?

WHY DO YOU THINK?

GII (CREAK) ギィ

SFX: JARI (CRUNCH)

HEY MION.

DO YOU KNOW WHY?

IT'S NOT JUST THAT SHE'S THE ONE WHO KILLED SATOSHI-KUN.

...I REALLY DID HAVE PLENTY OF REASON TO KILL ONI-BABA.

LOOKING BACK ON IT NOW, I THINK...

YOU SAID IT YOURSELF!

YOU SAID YOU'D FORGIVE EVERYTHING IF I TORE OFF MY FINGERNAILS!

SO I DID TEAR OFF MY FINGERNAILS!

IT'S BECAUSE SHE LIED!

THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO MAKE RESTITUTION, RIGHT!?

THREE OF THEM!!

GAN (WHAM)

WHY !!?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN!?

SHE ERASED SATOSHI-KUN AFTER ALL!

BUT SHE DIDN'T KEEP HER PROMISE!

YES... I DID SAY...

...THAT THE SONO-ZAKI FAMILY DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT WHY SATOSHI-KUN WENT MISSING.

AND YOU ALSO SAID...

YOU SAID THAT I MADE RESTITUTION FOR MY RELATIONSHIP WITH SATOSHI-KUN.

WHEN IT HAPPENED... REMEMBER WHAT YOU SAID?

IT WAS A LIE...

IT WAS A LIE.

A LIE...

IT WAS A LIE!!!

I THINK IT'S TRUE THAT YOU DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING...

...BECAUSE I DOUBT THAT ONI-BABA EVER TRUSTED YOU IN THE TRUE SENSE OF THE WORD.

HAAA (SIGH)

BUT I DON'T KNOW IF ONI-BABA REALLY FORGAVE SATOSHI-KUN BASED ON MY RESTITUTION.

AND THERE'S NO WAY SHE WOULD HAVE OPENED UP TO NAIVE LITTLE MION AND TOLD YOU THE TRUTH.

KOTSU

ONI-BABA DIDN'T KEEP HER PROMISE.

KOTSU (CLACK) コツ

SHE LIED.

SHE DIDN'T FORGIVE HIM.

LIAR, LIAR, LIAR, LIAR!!

GA (WHACK)

GIVE HIM BACK!!

GA

GA

LIAR, LIAR, LIAR!!

HAA (HUFF)

はあ

HAA

はあ

GA

GIVE SATOSHI-KUN BACK!!

SORRY, SORRY.

I SCARED YOU, DIDN'T I...?

GAKU

BUT...

...IF YOU WERE LYING TOO...

GAKU (SHIVER)

DON'T WORRY.

IF WHAT YOU SAID IS TRUE, AND YOU DIDN'T KNOW ANY-THING, THEN I WON'T TORMENT YOU.

I CAN'T BE HELD RESPON-SIBLE...

...THEN I CAN'T BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR WHATEVER MAY HAPPEN TO YOU.

AAAHH-
HA-HA-
HA-HA-
HA-HA-
HA!

ABOUT THE "EYE OPENING ARC" WHEN IT WAS IN PRODUCTION

ORIGINAL STORY, SUPERVISOR: RYUKISHI07

HELLO, THIS IS RYUKISHI07. THANKS TO ALL OF YOU, "HIGURASHI WHEN THEY CRY" HAS BEEN MADE INTO A MANGA AND HAS GAINED IMMENSE POPULARITY, BUT FOR THE FIRST TWO YEARS OR SO AFTER THE ORIGINAL SERIES BEGAN, IT WAS COMPLETELY UNKNOWN.

IT WAS RIGHT AROUND THE TIME BETWEEN THE "CURSE KILLING ARC" AND THE "TIME KILLING ARC" THAT IT GRADUALLY STARTED MAKING A NAME FOR ITSELF OVER THE INTERNET, AND FROM THERE, IT WAS CATCHING EVERYONE'S ATTENTION BEFORE I KNEW WHAT WAS HAPPENING.

AND SO, WHILE I WAS ABLE TO TAKE IT EASY WRITING IT UP THROUGH THE "TIME KILLING ARC," I REMEMBER FEELING MORE THAN A LITTLE PRESSURE WRITING THE "EYE OPENING ARC" AND ON, WANTING TO LIVE UP TO EVERYONE'S EXPECTATIONS.

IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT WHEN PEOPLE HAVE HIGH EXPECTATIONS FOR YOU, YOU WANT TO WRITE SOMETHING THAT MEETS THOSE EXPECTATIONS...BUT DOES THAT MEAN THAT IF NO ONE HAS ANY EXPECTATIONS FOR YOU, YOU END UP SAYING "THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH"?

THAT'S NOT WHAT IT MEANS AT ALL, IS IT? IT HAS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO DO WITH EXPECTATIONS OR PRESSURE. WHEN IT COMES TO PUTTING EVERYTHING I HAVE INTO THE WORK THAT I'M CURRENTLY MAKING, IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH WHETHER OR NOT ANYBODY KNOWS ABOUT THE SERIES.

FEELING THAT WAY, I MEANT TO WRITE THE STORY WITHOUT LOSING TO THE PRESSURE...BUT EVERY TIME I READ IT AGAIN, I REMEMBER THE PRESSURE FROM BACK THEN, AND EVEN NOW I FEEL LIKE IT COULD CRUSH ME. I SUPPOSE I'M NOT VERY BRAVE (WRY SMILE).

HELLO, THIS IS HOUJYOU. THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR READING THE "EYE OPENING ARC," VOLUME TWO. STARTING WITH VOLUME THREE, WE WILL FINALLY GET TO SEE THE REVERSE SIDE OF THE "COTTON DRIFTING ARC." AS THE PERSON DRAWING IT, I MIGHT BE LOOKING FORWARD TO IT MORE THAN ANYONE. WELL THEN, I WOULD BE HONORED TO MEET YOU AGAIN IN VOLUME THREE.

次巻、凶気が暴走する。

IN THE NEXT VOLUME, THE MADNESS SWELLS.

HIGURASHI
WHEN THEY CRY
EYE OPENING ARC ②

RYUKISHI07
Yutori Houjyou

Translation: Alethea Nibley and Athena Nibley

Lettering: AndWorld Design

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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